United Nations A/71/84

General Assembly

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Seventy-first session
Item 97 (o) of the preliminary list*
General and complete disarmament

Measures to uphold the authority of the 1925 Geneva Protocol

Note by the Secretary-General

1. At its sixty-ninth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 69/53, entitled "Measures to uphold the authority of the 1925 Geneva Protocol", paragraphs 2 to 4 of which read as follows:

> *The General Assembly*,
>
> ...
>
> 2. *Renews its previous call* to all States to observe strictly the principles and objectives of the Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare, and reaffirms the vital necessity of upholding its provisions;
>
> 3. *Calls upon* those States that continue to maintain reservations to the 1925 Geneva Protocol to withdraw them;
>
> 4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

2. Since the adoption of resolution 69/53, no withdrawals of reservations by States parties have been reported by the depositary of the 1925 Geneva Protocol.

3. Should the Secretary-General receive notice of further withdrawals of reservations to the Protocol, Member States will be duly informed.

* A/71/50.

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United Nations A/71/85

General Assembly

Distr.: General
10 May 2016

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Seventy-first session
Item 131 of the preliminary list*
Programme planning

Consolidated changes to the biennial programme plan as reflected in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017

Report of the Secretary-General**

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* A/71/50.

** The present report is issued in line with the provisions of resolutions 58/269 and 64/229 regarding the role of the Committee for Programme and Coordination in the planning and budgetary process.

16-07589 (E) 240516

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Programme 15. Economic and social development in Africa .....
Programme 16. Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific .....
Programme 17. Economic development in Europe .....
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I. Overview

1. In its resolutions 69/17 and 70/8, the General Assembly adopted the biennial programme plan and priorities for the period 2016-2017 (A/69/6/Rev.1; see also the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination (A/70/16) and previous consolidated changes to the biennial programme plan (A/70/80)). It is recalled that the Assembly, in its resolution 58/269, requested the Committee for Programme and Coordination, in performing its programmatic role in the planning and budgeting process, to review the programmatic aspects of new and/or revised mandates subsequent to the adoption of the biennial programme plan, as well as any differences that arose between the biennial programme plan and the programmatic aspects of the proposed programme budget. The present report has been prepared in response to that request.

II. Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017

2. In line with rule 104.8 of the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation (ST/SGB/2016/6), and on the basis of new and/or revised mandates, revisions to the biennial programme plan for the period 2016-2017 are proposed under programme 3, Disarmament; programme 6, Legal affairs; programme 7, Economic and social affairs; programme 8, Least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States; programme 9, United Nations support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development; programme 10, Trade and development; programme 11, Environment; programme 12, Human settlements; programme 13, International drug control, crime and terrorism prevention and criminal justice; programme 14, Gender equality and empowerment of women; programme 15, Economic and social development in Africa; programme 16, Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific; programme 17, Economic development in Europe; programme 18, Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean; programme 19, Economic and social development in Western Asia; programme 20, Human rights; and programme 22, Palestine refugees.

3. The changes in the biennial programme plan for the period 2016-2017 for the aforementioned programmes relate to the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 69/313, Economic and Social Council resolution 2015/30 on restructuring the conference structure of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific to be fit for the evolving post-2015 development agenda, Council resolution 2015/33 on the international arrangement on forests beyond 2015, the outcome document of the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by the Assembly in its resolution 70/1, and Assembly resolution 70/199 on the United Nations forest instrument.

4. The information in the present consolidated document has been prepared for review by the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the General Assembly. For each affected programme, introductory information is provided, including references to the new and/or revised mandates that give rise to the programmatic adjustments. The proposed revised text is presented under

subheadings indicating the numbers of the affected paragraphs of document A/69/6/Rev.1.

Programme 3
Disarmament

5. Modifications to the biennial programme plan for the period 2016-2017 take into account General Assembly resolution 70/1. Specifically, revisions are proposed under programme 3, Disarmament, to paragraph 3.2 of the overall orientation; and subparagraph 3.10 (a) of the strategy for subprogramme 3, Conventional arms (including practical disarmament measures).

Overall orientation

Paragraph 3.2 of A/69/6/Rev.1

6. The mandate for the programme is derived from the priorities established in relevant General Assembly resolutions and decisions in the field of disarmament, including the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, the first special session devoted to disarmament (resolution S-10/2). The programme is also guided by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Weapons of mass destruction, in particular nuclear weapons, continue to be of primary concern to the Organization owing to their destructive power and the threat that they pose to humanity. Conventional weapons, small arms, light weapons, landmines and cluster munitions have received increased attention from the international community.

Subprogramme 3
Conventional arms (including practical disarmament measures)

Strategy

Subparagraph 3.10 (a) of A/69/6/Rev.1

7. The subprogramme is implemented by the Conventional Arms Branch. The objective of the subprogramme will be pursued by:

(a) Promoting and supporting Member States' efforts to prevent illicit trade in small arms and light weapons through the effective implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects and the International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons, including the relevant target of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

Legislative mandates

General Assembly resolutions

70/1 Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Programme 6
Legal affairs

8. Modifications to the biennial programme plan for the period 2016-2017 take into account General Assembly resolutions 70/1 and 70/235. Specifically, revisions under programme 6, Legal affairs, are proposed to indicator of achievement (b) (ii) and paragraph 6.19 of the strategy for subprogramme 4, Law of the sea and ocean affairs.

Subprogramme 4
Law of the sea and ocean affairs

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(b) Enhanced cooperation and coordination among stakeholders in relation to ocean and coastal issues	(i) Increased number of joint activities carried out by the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, with United Nations system organizations and other bodies, including through UN-Oceans
	(ii) Increased number of cooperative activities, supported by the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, between and among States and other stakeholders, including those aimed at contributing to the sustainable development of the oceans and seas, such as the Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the Marine Environment, including Socioeconomic Aspects; the conservation and sustainable use of marine living resources and marine biodiversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction; and the implementation of the oceans-related goals in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Strategy

Paragraph 6.19 of A/69/6/Rev.1

9. The Division will continue to assist the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf in its consideration of submissions, and to advise States, in particular developing States, on the preparation of those submissions and of the proceedings before the Commission. It will also continue to provide enhanced support to the Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socioeconomic Aspects, as its secretariat. In addition, the Division will continue to engage in activities aimed at enhancing the peaceful use and sustainable development of oceans and seas, including the conservation and sustainable use of marine living resources and marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction; and the implementation of the oceans-related goals in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Legislative mandates

General Assembly resolutions

70/1 Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

70/235 Oceans and the law of the sea

Programme 7
Economic and social affairs

10. Modifications to the biennial programme plan for the period 2016-2017 take into account General Assembly resolutions 70/1 and 70/199 and Economic and Social Council resolution 2015/33.

11. In line with General Assembly resolution 70/1, revisions are proposed under programme 7, Economic and social affairs, to the overall orientation (paras. 7.2, 7.3 and 7.5); the objective and subparagraph 7.7 (a) and (c) of the strategy for subprogramme 1, Economic and Social Council support and coordination; subparagraph 7.8 (a) of the strategy for subprogramme 2, Social policy and development; the objective, expected accomplishments and subparagraphs 7.9 (a), (b), (e) and (f) of the strategy for subprogramme 3, Sustainable development; the objective, expected accomplishments (a) and (c) and the related indicators of achievement and subparagraph 7.10 (a) of the strategy for subprogramme 4, Statistics; expected accomplishment (c) and the related indicator of achievement of subprogramme 6, Development policy and analysis; and the objective, expected accomplishments (a), (c) and (d) and the related indicators of achievement and subparagraphs 7.15 (a)-(d) of the strategy for subprogramme 9, Financing for development.

12. In line with Economic and Social Council resolution 2015/33 and General Assembly resolution 70/199, revisions are proposed to the objective, expected accomplishments (a), (b) and (e) and the related indicators of achievement and subparagraphs 7.14 (a), (b), (f) and (i) of the strategy for subprogramme 8, Sustainable forest management.

Overall orientation

Paragraphs 7.2 and 7.3 of A/69/6/Rev.1

13. The programme, which is under the responsibility of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, is ensuring complementarity and synergy among its nine subprogrammes. Its key programmatic thrusts are: (a) to provide substantive support to the bodies established under the Charter of the United Nations dealing with development issues, namely, the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and its related functional commissions, and expert bodies; (b) to monitor and analyse development trends, prospects and policy issues globally; and (c) to provide support for capacity development in policy formulation and implementation, in particular in relation to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the Sustainable Development Goals, through, inter alia, the implementation of the regular programme of technical cooperation and Development Account projects.

14. The programme has placed development issues at the centre of global deliberations and helped Member States to forge a shared vision of development, as identified in the outcomes of major United Nations conferences and summits. The programme will continue to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the Sustainable Development Goals, and its follow-up process, as well as the follow-up to and implementation of the outcomes of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on financing for development.

Paragraph 7.5 of A/69/6/Rev.1

15. Fulfilling those functions requires strengthened analytical and monitoring capacity to identify and address emerging issues and cross-cutting policy challenges and to support both national development strategies and accountability and monitoring mechanisms at the intergovernmental level. Strategic integration is also essential to promoting a coherent and coordinated implementation process in advancing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the Sustainable Development Goals. This includes enhancing horizontal linkages across the subprogrammes to facilitate more effective and flexible support for Member States in pursuing the 2030 Agenda, including the Sustainable Development Goals, in cooperation with entities of the Executive Committee on Economic and Social Affairs, to which the programme provides strategic support and ensures its stronger linkages with the United Nations Development Group, other executive committees and various other partners.

Subprogramme 1
Economic and Social Council support and coordination

Objective of the Organization: To advance the role of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council and promote coordination and coherence in the activities of the United Nations system in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the Sustainable Development Goals

Strategy

Subparagraphs 7.7 (a) and (c) of A/69/6/Rev.1

16. The Office for Economic and Social Council Support and Coordination is responsible for the subprogramme. The strategy will include:

(a) Strengthening the role of the Economic and Social Council in coordinating progress towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and enhancing the integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development, by reinforcing policy development, coherence and coordination through its national reviews of country experiences, with adequate consideration given to promoting gender equality;

(c) Enhancing the role of the Economic and Social Council in the balanced integration of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development through its integration segment and high-level segment.

Subprogramme 2
Social policy and development

Strategy

Subparagraph 7.8 (a) of A/69/6/Rev.1

17. The Division for Social Policy and Development is responsible for the subprogramme. The strategy will include:

(a) Promoting greater awareness of and support for the integrated follow-up to and the implementation of: (i) the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; (ii) commitments from United Nations conferences and summits, especially the World Summit for Social Development, the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly and the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development; (iii) commitments contained in documents such as the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the realization of the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals for persons with disabilities, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the follow-up to the International Year of Cooperatives, 2012; (iv) mandates and recommendations of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and major international action plans; (v) mandates contained in General Assembly and Economic and Social Council resolutions; (vi) the United Nations system-wide plan of action on the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty, and the social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development; and (vii) follow-up to the outcomes of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly in 2014, to be known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples.

Subprogramme 3
Sustainable development

Objective of the Organization: To accelerate the implementation of sustainable development goals, targets and commitments in accordance with the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the Sustainable Development Goals, and the outcomes of major United Nations conferences and summits and Agenda 21

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Effective review of and agreement by Member States on key sustainable development challenges and priority actions to advance implementation of agreed outcomes on sustainable development and integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development, particularly the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including outcomes of major United Nations conferences on sustainable development, and Agenda 21	Increased percentage of Member States expressing satisfaction with the support and servicing of intergovernmental processes, including activities related to consensus-building, partnerships and voluntary commitments, policy analysis and participation of major groups and other relevant stakeholders

(b) Increased accessibility of information, understanding and knowledge of policy options, practical measures and concrete actions needed for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including for the adoption and implementation of sustainable development at the local, national, regional and international levels	(i) Increase in the number of inputs by Member States into databases on partnerships, voluntary commitments, best practices and lessons learned (ii) Increase in the number of visits to and downloads from the website of the Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform and its related social media forums to obtain information, documentation and publications
(c) Enhanced capacity of developing countries, including small island developing States, and countries with economies in transition to formulate and implement strategies, policies, frameworks and programmes in support of sustainable development, including follow-up to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, with a special focus on gender equality and empowerment of women	(i) Increase in the number of countries assisted by the Division, through the subprogramme, that have launched policy initiatives and developed partnerships, programmes and plans of action aimed at achieving sustainable development goals (ii) Increase in the number of national staff, disaggregated by sex, who have acquired enhanced knowledge and skills to effectively support the implementation of programmes and plans of action for sustainable development

Strategy

Subparagraphs 7.9 (a), (b), (e) and (f) of A/69/6/Rev.1

18. The Division for Sustainable Development is responsible for the subprogramme. The strategy will include:

(a) Promoting and supporting effective, coherent and coordinated implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the Sustainable Development Goals, the outcomes of major United Nations agreements on sustainable development in general and the sustainable development of the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, at the national, regional and global levels, with an emphasis on greater integration of social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable development through national sustainable development strategies;

(b) Providing substantive and effective support, including policy development and analysis, to the high-level political forum and the follow-up to the 2030 Agenda, including the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, including through the preparation of periodic sustainable development reports;

(e) Engaging major groups and other stakeholders in the work of the United Nations on sustainable development, including on the 2030 Agenda;

(f) Analysing sustainable development trends and policies, including on means of implementation, culminating in the *Global Sustainable Development Reports* for consideration by the high-level political forum.

Subprogramme 4
Statistics

Objective of the Organization: To advance the global statistical and geospatial information system in order to produce high quality, easily accessible comparable national statistics and geospatial information for policymakers and other users at the national and international levels

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Strengthened global statistical and geospatial information system, with more active participation by countries and increased collaboration among international organizations, including progress in the harmonization and rationalization of the Sustainable Development Goal indicators	(i) Increase in the number of participants from countries and international organizations attending the sessions of the Statistical Commission and the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management, high-level forums, workshops, expert group meetings and seminars
	(ii) Increase in the number of collaborative activities carried out with international organizations on the rationalization and harmonization of the Sustainable Development Goal indicators
(c) Strengthened capacity of developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, as well as landlocked countries and small island developing States, to routinely collect, compile, store, analyse and disseminate official statistics and indicators in the economic, social, demographic and environmental fields, in order to produce high quality data, including data disaggregated by income, sex, age, race, ethnicity, migration status, disability and geographic location and other characteristics relevant in the national context for policymakers and the public in general	(i) Increase in the number of national statistical staff who have been effectively utilizing knowledge and skills acquired at training and capacity development activities delivered by the subprogramme
	(ii) Increase in the number of countries that have received guidelines and capacity development support for developing and implementing sustainable national statistical and geospatial systems

Strategy

Subparagraph 7.10 (a) of A/69/6/Rev.1

19. The subprogramme is under the responsibility of the Statistics Division. The strategy will include:

(a) Expanding the normative role of the subprogramme in the development and enhancement of statistical standards, the collection and dissemination of statistical data by Member States and the coordination of international statistical activities, especially those related to the Sustainable Development Goals and other new and emerging policy issues.

Subprogramme 6
Development policy and analysis

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(c) Strengthened capacity of developing countries, including the least developed countries, and economies in transition to integrate macroeconomic, environmental and social policies, including gender dimensions, in national development strategies and to make macroeconomic stability compatible with the long-term goals of poverty eradication and sustainable development, and also, once defined and agreed upon, with the core principles and objectives of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development	Increase in the number of developing countries that have developed proposals and plans of action on the integration of macroeconomic and social policies, with adequate consideration given to promoting gender equality, into national development strategies in the context of sustainable development and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Subprogramme 8
Sustainable forest management

Objective of the Organization: To advance long-term political commitment to the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests at the global, regional and national levels and to promote the achievement of the global objectives on forests, forest sustainable development goals and targets, and the effective implementation of the United Nations forest instrument

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Effective support to the follow-up and implementation of Economic and Social Council resolution 2015/33 on the international arrangement on forests beyond 2015, taking into account the role of forests for achieving the sustainable development goals within the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development	Increase in the number of recommendations, analytical studies and reports on the implementation of Council resolution 2015/33 on the international arrangement on forests beyond 2015, and on the contribution of forests to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals within the 2030 Agenda, prepared with the support of the secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests
(b) Enhanced monitoring, assessment of and reporting on the implementation of the United Nations forest instrument and the progress towards achieving the global objectives on forests and forest sustainable development goals and targets, and mainstreaming a gender perspective	Increase in the number of reports submitted by countries to the United Nations Forum on Forests, including information on gender perspectives, on the progress made in the implementation of the United Nations forest instrument and the achievement of the global objectives on forests and forest sustainable development goals and targets

(e) Enhanced capacity of Member States for advancing sustainable management of all types of forests and implementing the United Nations forest instrument, especially the achievement of the global objectives, and enhanced access to financing for forests	Increase in the number of Member States that have benefited from the activities of the United Nations Forum on Forests aimed at promoting the implementation of sustainable forest management, including the implementation of the United Nations forest instrument

Strategy

Subparagraphs 7.14 (a), (b), (f) and (i) of A/69/6/Rev.1

20. The secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests is responsible for the subprogramme. The strategy will include:

(a) Supporting efforts to advance the sustainable management of all types of forests and trees outside forests, including the United Nations forest instrument global objectives on forests and forest sustainable development goals and targets, and, to this end, enhancing cooperation through country- and region-led initiatives, as well as supporting the interaction between the United Nations Forum on Forests and relevant regional and subregional organizations and processes, with the participation of major groups and other relevant stakeholders;

(b) Promoting greater awareness, at all levels, of the role of forests in achieving the sustainable development goals within the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as well as the United Nations Forum on Forests, and the objectives of the international arrangement on forests beyond 2015;

(f) Providing substantive support through the Global Forest Financing Facilitation network, addressing the special needs of Africa, the least developed countries, low-forest-cover countries, high-forest-cover low-deforestation countries and small island developing States, in accessing financing for forests;

(i) Assisting Member States, at their request, in advancing the sustainable management of all types of forests, including implementing the United Nations forest instrument, particularly for achieving its global objectives.

Subprogramme 9
Financing for development

Objective of the Organization: To promote and support sustained follow-up to the agreements reached at the International Conferences on Financing for Development, as contained in the 2002 Monterrey Consensus, the 2008 Doha Declaration on Financing for Development and the 2015 Addis Ababa Action Agenda, and the delivery of the means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Effective multi-stakeholder monitoring of and follow-up to the Monterrey Consensus, the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and other related outcomes, including the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, as well as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development	Increase in the number of contributions from all the relevant stakeholders to the annual analytical assessment of the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and other related outcomes, including the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, as well as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
(c) Fuller engagement of Governments and greater cooperation among all institutional and non-institutional stakeholders involved in the financing for development process, to ensure proper follow-up to the implementation of agreements reached at the Monterrey, Doha and Addis Ababa Conferences on Financing for Development and in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, with due regard to issues of gender equality	Increase in the number of multi-stakeholder events on financing for development, including the international and regional financial and trade institutions, as well as civil society and the private sector, including experts on issues related to gender equality
(d) Increased contribution by the United Nations in promoting international cooperation in tax matters, including capacity development in developing countries, for the purpose of domestic and international resource mobilization within the integrated framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development	Increase in the number of updates to the United Nations Model Double Taxation Convention between Developed and Developing Countries, as well as of guidelines, manuals and training materials on financing for development, serving as tools for strengthening the capacity of relevant authorities in developing countries

Strategy

Subparagraphs 7.15 (a)-(d) of A/69/6/Rev.1

21. The Financing for Development Office is responsible for the subprogramme. The strategy will include:

(a) Serving as a focal point in the United Nations Secretariat for overall follow-up to the implementation at the national, regional and global levels of the outcomes of the 2002, 2008 and 2015 International Conferences on Financing for

Development, and, in this context, intensifying collaboration and interaction with all relevant stakeholders;

(b) Promoting policy coherence within the United Nations on issues related to financing for development, for the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields, including the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

(c) Providing substantive secretariat support to the intergovernmental process entrusted with the follow-up to the Monterrey, Doha and Addis Ababa Conferences on Financing for Development, as well as financing for development aspects of related outcomes, including the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development;

(d) Organizing, in collaboration with experts from the public and private sectors, including experts on issues related to gender equality, multi-stakeholder activities aimed at better enabling Member States to implement their commitments as agreed upon in the Monterrey Consensus, the Doha Declaration and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, as well as the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and the 2030 Agenda;

Legislative mandates

General Assembly resolutions

69/313	Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (Addis Ababa Action Agenda)
70/1	Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
70/199	United Nations forest instrument

Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions

2015/33	International arrangement on forests beyond 2015

Programme 8
Least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States

22. Modifications to the biennial programme plan for the period 2016-2017 take into account General Assembly resolution 70/1. Specifically, revisions are proposed under programme 8, Least developed, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, to paragraph 8.3 and subparagraph 8.5 (b) of the overall orientation; the objective and subparagraph 8.6 (b) of the strategy for subprogramme 1, Least developed countries; the objective and subparagraph 8.7 (a) of the strategy for subprogramme 2, Landlocked developing countries; and subparagraph 8.8 (d) of the strategy for subprogramme 3, Small island developing States.

Overall orientation

Paragraph 8.3 of A/69/6/Rev.1

23. The programme will also contribute to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals and in the outcomes of major United Nations conferences and international agreements. It will mobilize international support in favour of its three groups of constituencies in the areas of capacity-building and increased technical and financial resources in promoting sustained growth and sustainable development. Gender mainstreaming and women's empowerment are an important dimension in the implementation of the three programmes of action.

Subparagraph 8.5 (b) of A/69/6/Rev.1

24. The Office of the High Representative will use a combination of the following approaches and strategies:

(b) Monitoring and follow-up to foster supportive policies in groups of countries in special situations and their development partners in accordance with their respective programmes of action and other internationally agreed development goals, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Subprogramme 1
Least developed countries

Objective of the Organization: To enable the least developed countries to achieve the goals of the Istanbul Programme of Action, including graduation from the least developed country category, and other internationally agreed development goals, including the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and contribute to mobilizing international support

Strategy

Subparagraph 8.6 (b) of A/69/6/Rev.1

25. The strategy for the Least Developed Countries Unit will focus on:

(b) Giving due priority to promoting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals in the least developed countries.

Subprogramme 2
Landlocked developing countries

Objective of the Organization: To enable landlocked developing countries to achieve the goals of a new programme of action aimed at addressing their special needs, and the internationally agreed development goals, including the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, through strengthened transit systems, productive capacities, diversification, industrialization, connection to value chains, and the enhanced mobilization of international support

Strategy

Subparagraph 8.7 (a) of A/69/6/Rev.1

26. The strategy for the Landlocked Developing Countries Unit will focus on:

(a) Serving as a focal point for the United Nations system for the overall coordination of, mobilization for, monitoring and reporting on, the implementation of the outcome of the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries and the attainment of internationally agreed development goals, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as related to landlocked developing countries.

Subprogramme 3
Small island developing States

Strategy

Subparagraph 8.8 (d) of A/69/6/Rev.1

27. The strategy of the Small Island Developing States Unit will focus on:

(d) Through the inter-agency consultative group, supporting coherence and active participation of the United Nations system, other international organizations, subregional and regional organizations, the private sector and civil society in the implementation of the outcome of the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Legislative mandates

General Assembly resolutions

70/1 Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Programme 9
United Nations support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development

28. Modifications to the biennial programme plan for the period 2016-2017 take into account General Assembly resolution 70/1. Specifically, revisions are proposed under programme 9, United Nations support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development, to paragraphs 9.4 and 9.6 of the overall orientation; and paragraph 9.13

of the strategy for subprogramme 1, Coordination of global advocacy of and support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development.

Overall orientation

Paragraph 9.4 of A/69/6/Rev.1

29. NEPAD remains critical to the three dimensions of sustainable development in Africa (economic, social and environmental), as highlighted in the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex). As NEPAD has been the overarching framework for the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals in Africa, it will continue to be a critical guiding framework for the continent's implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals.

Paragraph 9.6 of A/69/6/Rev.1

30. The United Nations is working to further support Africa in overcoming barriers to peace through the implementation of General Assembly resolution 67/302, in which the Assembly acknowledged the efforts to enhance coordination and cooperation between the African Union Peace and Security Council and the United Nations Security Council in the areas of peace and security, including the joint annual consultative meetings between members of the two Councils. The Assembly requested the Secretary-General to strengthen the role of the Interdepartmental/Inter-agency Task Force on Africa of the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa to bring greater coherence and coordination in the United Nations support to Africa for the Ten-Year Capacity-building Programme for the African Union and its successor programme, the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals, and other processes.

Subprogramme 1
Coordination of global advocacy of and support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development

Strategy

Paragraph 9.13 of A/69/6/Rev.1

31. The subprogramme will ensure that Africa remains a priority in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals. The Office of the Special Adviser on Africa will work closely with other United Nations bodies at the global, regional and subregional levels.

Legislative mandates

General Assembly resolutions

70/1 Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Programme 10
Trade and development

32. Modifications to the biennial programme plan for the period 2016-2017 take into account General Assembly resolution 70/1. Specifically, revisions are proposed under programme 10, Trade and development, to paragraphs 10.6 and 10.10 of the overall orientation; subparagraph 10.13 (c) (iii) of the strategy for subprogramme 1, Globalization, interdependence and development; paragraph 10.15 of the strategy for subprogramme 2, Investment and enterprise; subparagraph 10.17 (u) of the strategy for subprogramme 3, International trade, component 1, International trade in goods and services; and paragraph 10.24 of the strategy for subprogramme 6, Operational aspects of trade promotion and export development.

Overall orientation

Paragraph 10.6 of A/69/6/Rev.1

33. As many development challenges are closely interconnected, UNCTAD contributes to effective responses to these challenges through the integrated treatment of trade, finance, investment, technology and sustainable development and the promotion of such an approach for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Because sustainable and inclusive outcomes in an interdependent world involve collective responses at the multilateral level, UNCTAD is one of the appropriate bodies of the United Nations system for building consensus around more development-centred globalization, which would lead to faster and more stable growth, economic diversification, sustainable debt management, job creation, poverty reduction and sustainable and inclusive development.

Paragraph 10.10 of A/69/6/Rev.1

34. UNCTAD will contribute to the implementation of the outcomes of relevant global conferences and to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, especially as related to global partnerships for development, financing for development, domestic resource mobilization, investment, debt, trade, commodities, systemic issues and global economic decision-making, economic cooperation among developing countries, sustainable development and science and technology for development.

Subprogramme 1
Globalization, interdependence and development

Strategy

Subparagraph 10.13 (c) (iii) of A/69/6/Rev.1

35. The subprogramme, under the responsibility of the Division on Globalization and Development Strategies, will focus on:

(c) Contributing to research and analysis on:

(iii) The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Subprogramme 2
Investment and enterprise

Strategy

Paragraph 10.15 of A/69/6/Rev.1

36. The subprogramme, under the responsibility of the Division on Investment and Enterprise, will assist all developing countries, in particular those in Africa and least developed countries, as well as landlocked developing countries, small island developing States and other structurally weak, vulnerable and small economies, and countries with economies in transition and middle-income countries, according to their needs, in designing and implementing policies aimed at enhancing productive capacities, industrialization, economic diversification and job creation and promoting effective progress towards 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development through investment and enterprise development. To that end, the subprogramme will:

Subprogramme 3
International trade

Component 1
International trade in goods and services

Strategy

Subparagraph 10.17 (u) of A/69/6/Rev.1

37. The subprogramme will focus on:

(u) Sharing best practices on partnerships for trade and development that can strengthen the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Subprogramme 6
Operational aspects of trade promotion and export development

Strategy

Paragraph 10.24 of A/69/6/Rev.1

38. The International Trade Centre bears substantive responsibility for the implementation of the subprogramme. Its strategic thrust is in line with the mandate entrusted to it by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1819 (LV), by which the Council recognized the Centre as the focal point for technical assistance and cooperation activities in the trade promotion and export development field within the United Nations system of assistance to developing countries. The subprogramme will focus on the implementation of international goals, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It will contribute to the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020 and the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want" (General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex). The subprogramme will play an important role in furthering the implementation of the Doha, Hong Kong and Geneva ministerial declarations adopted by WTO, in particular by improving and enhancing trade support institutions and policies for the benefit of exporting efforts and by strengthening the export capacity of enterprises to respond to market opportunities.

Legislative mandates

General Assembly resolution 55/2, United Nations Millennium Declaration, is proposed for deletion from the list of legislative mandates.

General Assembly resolutions

70/1 Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Programme 11
Environment

39. Modifications to the biennial programme plan for the period 2016-2017 take into account General Assembly resolution 70/1. Specifically, revisions under programme 11, Environment, relate to the inclusion of two additional indicators of achievement for expected accomplishment (b) of subprogramme 2, Disasters and conflicts.

Subprogramme 2
Disasters and conflicts

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(b) The capacity of countries to use natural resource and environmental management to support sustainable recovery from disasters and conflicts is improved	(i) Percentage of countries affected by natural and/or man-made disasters that improve their capacity to use natural resource and environmental management, with the assistance of UNEP, to support sustainable recovery from disasters and conflicts
	(ii) Percentage of countries assisted by UNEP that develop policies and strategies aimed at increasing their capacity to recover sustainably from disasters and conflicts
	(iii) Percentage of country requests for emergency response met by UNEP
	(iv) Percentage of post-crisis recovery plans by Governments or international partners that integrate UNEP assessment recommendations

Legislative mandates

General Assembly resolution 55/2, United Nations Millennium Declaration, is proposed for deletion from the list of legislative mandates.

General Assembly resolutions

70/1 Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Programme 12
Human settlements

40. Modifications to the biennial programme plan for the period 2016-2017 take into account General Assembly resolution 70/1. Specifically, revisions are proposed under programme 12, Human settlements, to paragraphs 12.2, 12.3 and 12.7 of the overall orientation, and subparagraph 12.27 (a) of the strategy for subprogramme 4, Urban basic services.

Overall orientation

Paragraphs 12.2 and 12.3 of A/69/6/Rev.1

41. The mandate of UN-Habitat is further derived from other internationally agreed development goals, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Sustainable Development Goal 11, which calls on the global community to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.

42. Through its resolution 24/15 of 19 April 2013, the Governing Council of UN-Habitat approved a six-year strategic plan for the period 2014-2019, which will be implemented through three successive biennial strategic frameworks and programme budgets, for 2014-2015, 2016-2017 and 2018-2019. The strategic direction of the framework would be derived from the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and from the outcome of the Third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), scheduled to take place in 2016.

Paragraph 12.7 of A/69/6/Rev.1

43. Owing to the global economic crisis that started in 2008, urbanization is taking place within the context of a relatively weakened global economy, with reduced investment prospects in some parts of the world. The slump in economic growth could adversely affect slum upgrading and prevention programmes, urban renewal and poverty-reduction initiatives, which traditionally rank low in priority, and seriously threaten the possibility of achieving the targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. However, some countries, including many in Africa, have experienced positive economic growth in recent years, thus opening up opportunities for planned urbanization to contribute significantly to sustainable development.

Subprogramme 4
Urban basic services

Strategy

Subparagraph 12.27 (a) of A/69/6/Rev.1

44. A key focus of subprogramme 4 is on supporting local, regional and national authorities responsible for urban and human settlements issues in developing and implementing policies for increasing equitable access to urban basic services and improving the standard of living of the urban poor. The strategy for achieving the expected accomplishments is as follows:

(a) Regarding access to sustainable urban basic services, the subprogramme will support local, regional and national authorities in strengthening their legislative and institutional frameworks for the expansion of equitable access to urban basic services. Efforts will focus on advocacy and networking on basic services to contribute to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, through collaboration with the United Nations inter-agency coordination mechanisms on water resources and energy (UN-Water and UN-Energy), the technical working group of the Secretary-General on transport, regional economic commissions and intergovernmental bodies. Support will also be given to national and subnational policy and sector reform processes to develop and implement pro poor policies. To achieve this, the subprogramme will strengthen its involvement in the development of country support strategies through active engagement with other United Nations partners. The subprogramme will also support the implementation of the international guidelines on decentralization and the guidelines on access to basic services for all, and the development and dissemination of toolkits, standards and guidelines as valuable tools for expanding access to urban basic services.

Legislative mandates

General Assembly resolutions

70/1 Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Programme 13
International drug control, crime and terrorism prevention and criminal justice

45. Modifications to the biennial programme plan for the period 2016-2017 take into account General Assembly resolution 70/1. Specifically, revisions are proposed under programme 13, International drug control, crime and terrorism prevention and criminal justice, in the overall orientation to include a new paragraph below existing paragraph 13.4 and to revise existing paragraph 13.5 (which will become paragraph 13.6); the strategy for suprogramme 7, Policy support; and paragraph 13.19 of the strategy for subprogramme 8, Technical cooperation and field support.

Overall orientation

New paragraph 13.5 and revision of former paragraph 13.5 (now paragraph 13.6) of A/69/6/Rev.1

46. For the first time, the new global development agenda explicitly affirms that development requires peaceful and inclusive societies, justice for all and effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels. There exists a strongly related and mutually reinforcing relationship between the rule of law and development and, as such, neither can be realized in the absence of the other.

47. Besides the foundational mandates, the policy directions of UNODC are grounded in: (a) the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (General Assembly resolution 70/1); (b) the Millennium Declaration (see General Assembly resolution 55/2); (c) the twentieth special session of the General Assembly on countering the world drug problem; (d) the recommendations resulting from the 2005 World Summit Outcome (General Assembly resolution 60/1); (e) Economic and Social Council resolutions 2007/12 and 2007/19; and (f) the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, as adopted by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at the high-level segment of its fifty-second session (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.10.XI.8).

Subprogramme 7
Policy support

Strategy

Paragraph 13.18 of A/69/6/Rev.1

48. Substantive responsibility for implementation of the subprogramme lies with the Division for Policy Analysis and Public Affairs. The objective will be achieved by:

(a) Developing normative results-based management frameworks for planning, monitoring and reporting purposes;

(b) Providing assistance on policy coherence and institutional reforms to increase the effective implementation of the UNODC mandate areas, including drug control, crime prevention and criminal justice, at the national, regional and international levels;

(c) Facilitating and providing interdivisional headquarters and field based assistance, including through United Nations country teams, to increase national and regional capacity: (i) to implement mandated areas of the international normative framework which address cross-cutting, systemic issues (such as illicit financial flows, corruption and economic crime); (ii) to achieve relevant Sustainable Development Goals targets; and (iii) other commitments (such as the Addis Ababa Action Agenda);

(d) Conducting dialogues with donor Governments, Member States, international organizations and private sector entities to mobilize resources;

(e) Reaching out to non-governmental organizations and international media;

(f) Carrying out targeted advocacy and communication activities, with emphasis on key stakeholders in the substantive areas such as drugs, corruption, human trafficking and smuggling of migrants;

(g) Coordinating with other United Nations agencies on issues related to drugs, crime and terrorism in all its forms and manifestations;

(h) Undertaking policy analysis and providing coherent advice, upon request;

(i) Promoting collaboration between the three pillars of the United Nations system — peace and security, human rights and sustainable development — as called for in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Subprogramme 8
Technical cooperation and field support

Strategy

Paragraph 13.19 of A/69/6/Rev.1

49. Substantive responsibility for the implementation of the subprogramme lies with the Division of Operations. With the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals, the UNODC field offices will ensure the inclusion of governance, security and human rights-based crime control interventions into a larger number of joint United Nations programmes that address the development and health components of the Goals. The Division will provide policy advice, strategic guidance and coordination for the development of integrated programmes and ensure their full implementation, notably through synergies with global programmes. In addition, the Division will provide overall management, quality assurance and oversight to ensure successful programme implementation. Key tasks include:

Legislative mandates

General Assembly resolutions

69/313 Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (Addis Ababa Action Agenda)

70/1 Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Programme 14
Gender equality and empowerment of women

50. Modifications to the biennial programme plan for the period 2016-2017 take into account General Assembly resolution 70/1. Specifically, revisions are proposed under programme 14, Gender equality and empowerment of women, to paragraph 14.3 under the overall orientation.

Overall orientation

Paragraph 14.3 of A/69/6/Rev.1

51. The programme contributes to the achievement of internationally agreed development goals in the area of gender equality and the empowerment of women, recognizing that gender equality is pivotal to the achievement of sustainable development in all its dimensions. To this end, the programme contributes to the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 5, to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls; gender-specific targets in other goals; and the systematic mainstreaming of a gender perspective in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The programme will also contribute to the implementation and monitoring of the gender equality commitments and actions in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.

Legislative mandates

General Assembly resolutions

69/313 Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (Addis Ababa Action Agenda)

70/1 Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Agreed conclusions of the Commission on the Status of Women

2016 Women's empowerment and the link to sustainable development

Programme 15
Economic and social development in Africa

52. Modifications to the biennial programme plan for the period 2016-2017 take into account General Assembly resolution 70/1. Specifically, revisions are proposed under programme 15, Economic and social development in Africa, to paragraph 15.3 of the overall orientation; and under subprogramme 7, Subregional activities for

development, to the strategies of all components: paragraph 15.38 of component 1, Subregional activities in North Africa; paragraph 15.44 of component 2, Subregional activities in West Africa; paragraph 15.51 of component 3, Subregional activities in Central Africa; paragraph 15.53 of component 4, Subregional activities in East Africa; and paragraph 15.56 of component 5, Subregional activities in Southern Africa.

Overall orientation

Paragraph 15.3 of A/69/6/Rev.1

53. Many African economies have been growing steadily over the past decade, making remarkable progress in advancing economic and social development, including progress towards meeting some of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development targets. The growth momentum continued in 2013, with the growth in gross domestic product averaging 5 per cent, which is well above the world average, making the continent one of the fastest-growing regions of the world.

Subprogramme 7
Subregional activities for development

Component 1
Subregional activities in North Africa

Strategy

Paragraph 15.38 of A/69/6/Rev.1

54. Component 1 of subprogramme 7 will be implemented by the subregional office for North Africa, which covers the following seven member States: Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Sudan and Tunisia. The strategy applied under the subprogramme will focus on internationally and regionally agreed development goals, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as well as the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development. In addition, the subprogramme will focus on boosting intra-African cooperation and trade.

Component 2
Subregional activities in West Africa

Strategy

Paragraph 15.44 of A/69/6/Rev.1

55. Component 2 of subprogramme 7 will be implemented by the subregional office for West Africa, which covers the following 15 countries: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo. The strategy will focus on the provision of support to member States and regional economic communities in meeting internationally agreed development goals, such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as well as the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development. In addition, the subprogramme will organize consultations with countries in the subregion on the African Union's Agenda 2063.

Component 3
Subregional activities in Central Africa

Strategy

Paragraph 15.51 of A/69/6/Rev.1

56. The special initiatives will reflect the priorities defined by the regional economic communities in their efforts to advance post-conflict recovery, regional integration and economic, social and environmental development. The component will assist regional economic communities and member States in formulating and implementing programmes and activities in line with NEPAD priorities, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and structural transformation. The implementation strategy will include building and maintaining knowledge and information networks for harnessing and disseminating best practices to member States and their organizations as well as maintaining the subregional repository of statistical information to feed into the common databank and to support all of the analytical and research needs of the Commission. This will require close consultation with regional economic communities and the strengthening of partnerships with United Nations agencies and other stakeholders, including the private sector and civil society, and with regional intergovernmental organizations, including the African Development Bank, the African Union Commission, the NEPAD secretariat, the Central African States Development Bank and the Bank of Central African States, for better synergy in order to increase the effectiveness and impact of ECA activities. The subregional coordination mechanism convened by the office will be used as a formal consultation platform.

Component 4
Subregional activities in East Africa

Strategy

Paragraph 15.53 of A/69/6/Rev.1

57. As part of the capacity-building strategy of ECA, targeted and multidisciplinary advisory and capacity-development support will be provided to a select number of priority member States (post-conflict countries, small island States), regional economic communities and intergovernmental organizations to accelerate the implementation of high-impact subregional initiatives in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the African Union's Agenda 2063. ECA will foster innovative partnerships with regional and national think tanks, non-governmental organizations and private sector organizations to generate better results and economies of scale.

Component 5
Subregional activities in Southern Africa

Strategy

Paragraph 15.56 of A/69/6/Rev.1

58. The component will also concentrate on producing country profiles aimed at providing policy advice in support of the development agenda of member States. Furthermore, the component will convene meetings and provide technical support and advisory services focusing on special initiatives for the subregion to member

States, the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, the Southern African Development Community and other subregional organizations with a view to improving their capacity for regional integration in relation to emerging issues and areas of priority to Southern Africa. This will include supporting programmes and activities carried out under the special initiatives, focusing on the formulation of policy papers geared towards supporting the implementation of the social and economic development priorities of regional economic communities in the context of the subregional coordination mechanism, NEPAD and achievement of internationally agreed development goals, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Legislative mandates

General Assembly resolution 55/2, United Nations Millennium Declaration, is proposed for deletion from the list of legislative mandates.

General Assembly resolutions

69/313	Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (Addis Ababa Action Agenda)
70/1	Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Programme 16
Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific

59. Modifications to the biennial programme plan for the period 2016-2017 take into account General Assembly resolutions 70/1 and 69/313, as well as Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific resolution 71/1 on restructuring the conference structure of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific to be fit for the evolving post-2015 development agenda, which was endorsed by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 2015/30.

60. In line with Economic and Social Council resolution 2015/30, the name of subprogramme 1, "Macroeconomic policy and inclusive development" is being revised to "Macroeconomic policy, poverty reduction and financing for development", and a new subprogramme 9, Energy, is being proposed.

61. In line with General Assembly resolution 69/313, revisions are proposed to paragraph 16.14 of the strategy for subprogramme 1, and to paragraph 16.18 of the strategy for subprogramme 2, Trade and investment.

62. In line with General Assembly resolution 70/1, revisions are proposed to paragraph 16.2 of the overall orientation; the objective, expected accomplishment (c) and paragraphs 16.14 and 16.15 of the strategy for subprogramme 1; paragraphs 16.18-16.20 of the strategy for subprogramme 2; paragraph 16.22 of the strategy for subprogramme 3, Transport; the objective, expected accomplishments, indicators of achievement and paragraphs 16.25 and 16.26 of the strategy for subprogramme 4, Environment and development; paragraphs 16.30 and 16.33 of the strategy for subprogramme 5, Information and communications technology and disaster risk reduction and management; paragraph 16.35 of the strategy for subprogramme 6, Social development; paragraph 16.39 of the strategy for subprogramme 7, Statistics;

and paragraphs 16.41, 16.42 and 16.45-16.48 of the strategy for subprogramme 8, Subregional activities for development.

Overall orientation

Paragraph 16.2 of A/69/6/Rev.1

63. This strategic framework covers the first biennium of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Its strategic direction is derived from internationally agreed development mandates, including the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, which emphasized the role of the regional commissions in promoting the balanced integration of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development; General Assembly resolution 67/226 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review, which called for the adoption of collaborative approaches to support country-level development initiatives; and Commission resolution 71/1 on restructuring the conference structure of the Commission to be fit for the evolving post-2015 development agenda.

Subprogramme 1
Macroeconomic policy, poverty reduction and financing for development

Objective of the Organization: To enhance regional economic cooperation and foster forward-looking macroeconomic policymaking for inclusive and sustainable development, especially in support of poverty reduction and attainment of internationally agreed development goals, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(c) Improved capacity of member States, particularly countries with special needs, to design and implement development policies for achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other internationally agreed development goals, including gender equality	Percentage of surveyed participants indicating that they are better able to design and implement development policies, including those that are gender responsive

Strategy

Paragraphs 16.14 and 16.15 of A/69/6/Rev.1

64. The substantive responsibility for the subprogramme is vested in the Macroeconomic Policy and Development Division, with support from the Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Sustainable Agriculture. The strategic direction of this subprogramme is provided by the internationally agreed development goals, including those enunciated in: (a) the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (General Assembly resolution 70/1); (b) the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex; (c) the follow-up to the outcome document of the Conference on the

World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development (General Assembly resolution 63/303, annex); (d) the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (General Assembly resolution 69/313); (e) the programmes of action for the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States; and (f) other resolutions contained in the list of legislative mandates.

65. Forward-looking macroeconomic policies are essential both to ensure economic stability and to support inclusive, equitable and sustainable development. With its emphasis on strengthening capacities to formulate and implement these policies for a resilient Asian and Pacific region, the subprogramme will monitor macroeconomic trends and prospects towards reducing poverty and narrowing development gaps; promote capacity development for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; identify key issues in financing for development; assist in the implementation of the programmes of action for the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States; promote development in fragile States by strengthening regional support measures; and strengthen regional and South-South cooperation in the form of policy dialogues and advocacy to address medium- to long-term challenges and to close development gaps. Special emphasis will be placed on efforts to strengthen regional economic cooperation and integration and on sharing good experiences and best practices. Due attention will be given to redressing gender inequalities; supporting the efforts of least developed countries to enhance their productive capacities to sustain their growth momentum and close their development gaps by 2020; and fostering a regional coordinated voice on development issues and challenges.

Subprogramme 2
Trade and investment

Strategy

Paragraphs 16.18-16.20 of A/69/6/Rev.1

66. The substantive responsibility for the subprogramme is vested in the Trade and Investment Division, with support from the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology and the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization. The strategic direction of the subprogramme is derived mainly from the internationally agreed development goals, including those enunciated in the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (General Assembly resolution 69/313) and the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014-2024, as well as in Commission resolutions 70/5 and 68/3.

67. To meet its objective, the subprogramme will be implemented through a combination of analytical and capacity-building work on trade, investment, enterprise development, sustainable agricultural mechanization, innovation and technology transfer, with a particular view to enhancing the contribution of trade and investment in meeting the development goals envisaged in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The focus of the analytical work will be to provide inputs

for evidence-based policymaking and the sharing of experiences on related policy reforms.

68. The following issues will be addressed, with a key focus on inclusive, equitable, sustainable and resilient development and linkages with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: (a) strengthening the capacity of member States to effectively negotiate, conclude and implement trade and investment agreements at the international and regional levels, including the World Trade Organization Bali package and further agreements on the outstanding issues of the Doha Development Agenda; (b) designing and implementing trade facilitation policies and measures, including paperless trade systems; (c) formulating and implementing effective policy measures to strengthen responsible business practices and the integration of small and medium-sized enterprises, including agro-based enterprises, into regional and global value chains, with attention given to the different needs, challenges and interests of women and men entrepreneurs; (d) promoting foreign direct investment; (e) promoting technological innovation and transfer; and (f) establishing and strengthening common frameworks and mechanisms for regional cooperation in trade, investment, technology transfer and the development of small and medium-sized enterprises, including agricultural enterprises.

Subprogramme 3
Transport

Strategy

Paragraph 16.22 of A/69/6/Rev.1

69. The substantive responsibility for this subprogramme is vested in the Transport Division. The strategic direction of the subprogramme is derived from phase II (2012-2016) of the Regional Action Programme for Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific, from the relevant resolutions contained in the list of legislative mandates and from the outcome of meetings of ministers of transport convened by ESCAP. It will also be guided by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. During the biennium, the subprogramme will support member States in working towards the vision of an international, integrated, intermodal transport and logistics system connecting the Asian and Pacific region. It will do this by supporting member States in their efforts to integrate the regional transport networks, including by continuing to act as the secretariat for the intergovernmental agreements governing the Asian Highway network, the Trans-Asian Railway network and dry ports. In particular, the subprogramme will support the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States in their efforts to develop and upgrade their transport networks, including through public-private partnerships and private-sector involvement in infrastructure projects. In line with the Regional Action Programme, the secretariat will also continue to focus on improving inter-island shipping in archipelagic and island countries. Special consideration will be given to mainstreaming gender considerations into the subprogramme.

Subprogramme 4
Environment and development

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Enhanced understanding by local and national government officials and other stakeholders of means of aligning environment and development policymaking and water resources management and urban development policies, including their gender dimensions, with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals	Number of references to ESCAP publications, policy briefs, projects and related activities in policy documents, declarations and statements showing an increased alignment of environment and development policymaking and water resources management and urban development policies, including their gender dimensions, with the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals
(b) Improved capacity of local and national governments and major stakeholders to operationalize environment and development policymaking and water resources management and urban development policies, including their gender dimensions, in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the sustainable development goals	Number of initiatives developed by governments and major stakeholders to operationalize environment and development policymaking and water resources management and urban development policies, including their gender dimensions
(c) Enhanced regional cooperation frameworks and networks of local and national governments and major stakeholders with respect to environment and development policymaking and water resources management and urban development policies, including their gender dimensions	Number of initiatives for establishing or strengthening regional cooperation frameworks and networks related to environment and development policymaking and water resources management and urban development policies, including their gender dimensions

Strategy

Paragraphs 16.25 and 16.26 of A/69/6/Rev.1

70. The substantive responsibility for the subprogramme is vested in the Environment and Development Division. The strategic direction of the subprogramme is mainly derived from the internationally agreed development goals, the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and relevant regional agreements within the context of ESCAP, and will also be guided by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

71. The subprogramme will build on the previous achievements of the ESCAP secretariat in supporting countries of the region in their efforts to integrate the three dimensions of sustainable development. It will facilitate regional cooperation as an overarching strategy to address rapid urbanization, shortcomings in access to basic services, integrated water resources management as well as climate change, sustainable management of resources and other environmental pressures and constraints. The subprogramme will focus on supporting a long-term perspective in policymaking to sustain the quantity and improve the quality of growth based on

enhanced economic dynamism, social inclusiveness, environmental sustainability and resilience, critical factors for achieving sustainable development.

Subprogramme 5
Information and communications technology and disaster risk reduction and management

Strategy

Paragraph 16.30 of A/69/6/Rev.1

72. The substantive responsibility for the subprogramme is vested in the Information and Communications Technology and Disaster Risk Reduction Division, with support from the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development. The subprogramme deals with pressing contemporary development challenges of building resilience to natural disasters and deepening connectivity in Asia and the Pacific, with the strategic direction provided by the resolutions contained in the list of legislative mandates and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The subprogramme will be implemented through a combination of normative, analytical and capacity-building work and will be anchored in regional cooperation mechanisms.

Paragraph 16.33 of A/69/6/Rev.1

73. The emphasis of the disaster risk reduction and management work will be on enhancing regional knowledge and knowledge-sharing, development of disaster information and strengthening of capacities to manage risks and vulnerabilities in order to reduce socioeconomic impacts of disasters and build resilience. The subprogramme will provide member States with analysis, strategies and evidence-based policy options in mainstreaming disaster risk reduction, including climate change adaptation, into long-term development plans and strategies through knowledge-sharing mechanisms, and develop information management solutions for financing disaster risk reduction. The efforts will be further augmented by the regional advisory services on disaster risk reduction, the progress towards an integrated regional early warning system provided through the ESCAP Multi-Donor Trust Fund for Tsunami, Disaster and Climate Preparedness in Indian Ocean and Southeast Asian Countries, and capacity-building activities delivered through ESCAP-supported regional mechanisms, including South-South cooperation.

Subprogramme 6
Social development

Strategy

Paragraph 16.35 of A/69/6/Rev.1

74. The substantive responsibility for the subprogramme is vested in the Social Development Division. The strategic direction of the subprogramme is derived mainly from the commitments agreed upon through relevant United Nations intergovernmental processes, including: (a) the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; (b) the World Summit for Social Development; (c) the Programme of

Action of the International Conference on Population and Development; (d) the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action; (e) the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women; (f) the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; (g) the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families; (h) the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002; (i) the World Programme of Action on Youth; and (j) the Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS: Intensifying our Efforts to Eliminate HIV and AIDS (General Assembly resolution 65/277, annex). Regional mandates that guide the subprogramme include the Incheon Strategy, the Bangkok Statement on the Asia-Pacific Review of the Implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, the Bangkok Declaration on Beijing+15, the outcome document of the Asia-Pacific High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Assessment of Progress against Commitments in the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS and the Millennium Development Goals and the Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development of the Sixth Asian and Pacific Population Conference, which was adopted by a vote.

Subprogramme 7
Statistics

Strategy

Paragraph 16.39 of A/69/6/Rev.1

75. Within the overall programme of work, the subprogramme will also link its work closely with that of other subprogrammes to support evidence-based policy analyses and advocacy. Capitalizing on the diversity in the region, the subprogramme will emphasize sharing of knowledge, experiences and solutions in developing and implementing regional initiatives to strengthen national statistical capacity by enhancing collaborative research and capacity development with regional think tanks, centres of excellence and leading national statistical offices. The subprogramme will make full use of the opportunities arising from the increased capacities of member States as centres of expertise and providers of development assistance, including through South-South cooperation modalities. The subprogramme will make conscious efforts to adapt its approaches to specific country circumstances and needs of member States. For least developed member States with more acute and widespread needs, this often means targeted support.

Subprogramme 8
Subregional activities for development

Strategy

Paragraphs 16.41 and 16.42 of A/69/6/Rev.1

76. The overall responsibility for coordinating the work of the subprogramme is vested in the Office of the Executive Secretary. The subprogramme will be implemented by the subregional offices in the Pacific, East and North-East Asia, North and Central Asia and South and South-West Asia, and by ESCAP headquarters in the South-East Asian subregion. Internationally agreed development goals, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the outcome of the

United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and the programmes of action for the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States provide the mandates and strategic direction for the subprogramme.

77. Given the vast coverage and diversity of the Asian and Pacific region, the subprogramme, within the broad contours of its overall orientation, would strengthen the Commission's presence and strategic position at the subregional level, through strengthened coordination among substantive divisions, subregional offices and regional institutions, enabling better targeting and delivery of programmes that address specific key priorities of member States in the five subregions. Priority will be accorded to strengthening sustainable, equitable and inclusive development and supporting the integration of the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States for a resilient Asian and Pacific region. The subprogramme will also provide subregional perspectives in order to inform the Commission's normative and analytical work.

Paragraphs 16.45-16.48 of A/69/6/Rev.1

78. The subregional office for the Pacific, within the overall strategy and mandates and in coordination with the relevant subprogrammes, will work closely with the Council of Regional Organizations of the Pacific, and in particular the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, the Secretariat of the Pacific Community and the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme through the Sustainable Development Working Group, to assist member States in the following priority areas:

(a) National sustainable development planning to address sustainable development in the Pacific;

(b) Balanced integration of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development;

(c) Climate change, environmental degradation and management of the ocean;

(d) Gender inequality.

79. The subregional office for East and North-East Asia, within the overall strategy and mandates and in coordination with the relevant subprogrammes, will work closely with major development partners in the subregion, including the Greater Tumen Initiative, to assist member States in the following priority areas:

(a) Promoting subregional cooperation on green economy (in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication) and subregional environmental challenges such as nature and marine conservation and transboundary air pollution, including through the North-East Asian Subregional Programme for Environmental Cooperation;

(b) Facilitating subregional cooperation towards inclusive development while ensuring gender equality, in particular by leveraging the skills and knowledge of older persons, women, youth and persons with disabilities;

(c) Enhancing transport and trade facilitation to promote economic growth and cooperation in East and North-East Asia;

(d) Strengthening disaster resiliency in East and North-East Asia through enhanced cooperation on technology and knowledge-sharing.

80. The subregional office for North and Central Asia, within the overall strategy and mandates and in coordination with the relevant subprogrammes, will work closely with the Economic Commission for Europe, as well as the Economic Cooperation Organization, the Eurasian Economic Commission, the Eurasian Development Bank, the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization to assist member States in the following priority areas:

(a) Subregional cooperation in transport, water and energy, trade, statistics, knowledge-based development and gender and economy through the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia;

(b) Transport and trade facilitation through improved transport links, transit transport and trade facilitation measures, and reduction of trade barriers;

(c) Energy and water resource management, environmental protection, disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation.

81. The subregional office for South and South-West Asia, within the overall strategy and mandates and in coordination with the relevant subprogrammes, will work closely with the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, the Economic Cooperation Organization, the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation, international organizations, government agencies and civil society think tanks, among other stakeholders, to assist member States in the following priority areas:

(a) Accelerating inclusive and sustainable growth, poverty eradication, gender equality and universal access to quality education and health, in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

(b) Subregional connectivity through transport, trade and transport facilitation and infrastructure investment for economic integration;

(c) Attainment of sustainable development goals on energy and food security through subregional cooperation;

(d) Subregional cooperation for increased capacity for disaster risk reduction strategies and policies;

(e) Assisting the least developed and landlocked countries of the subregion in accelerating inclusive development through increased productive capacity and achieving graduation from least developed country status.

Subprogramme 9
Energy

Objective of the Organization: To enhance energy security and the sustainable use of energy through improved regional cooperation in the attainment of internationally agreed development goals, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Enhanced understanding by national government officials and other stakeholders of policy options and strategies to improve energy security and the sustainable use of energy	(i) Number of review articles and references to ESCAP publications, related materials and activities in the area of energy in policy-related literature and key media outlets
	(ii) Number of users accessing the Asian and Pacific Energy Forum data and policy information portal
(b) Enhanced regional cooperation frameworks and networks of national Governments and major stakeholders with respect to policies and strategies on energy security and the sustainable use of energy, including their gender dimensions	Number of initiatives for establishing or strengthening regional cooperation frameworks and networks related to energy security and the sustainable use of energy

Strategy

82. The substantive responsibility for the subprogramme is vested in the Energy Division. The strategic direction of the subprogramme is derived from internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and General Assembly resolution 67/215 on the promotion of new and renewable sources of energy, in which the Assembly declared 2014-2024 the United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy for All, as well as the Ministerial Declaration on Regional Cooperation for Enhanced Energy Security and the Sustainable Use of Energy in Asia and the Pacific: Shaping the Future of Sustainable Energy in Asia and the Pacific and its Plan of Action, as endorsed by the Commission in its resolution 70/9, and the implementation of the outcomes of the first Asian and Pacific Energy Forum. It would also be guided by General Assembly resolution 70/1 on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

83. The subprogramme will focus on enhancing energy security and promoting the sustainable use of energy in Asia and the Pacific. Energy connectivity and use in the context of regional economic integration will also be considered. The subprogramme will promote policy dialogues and networking among member States so as to strengthen a regional cooperation framework for enhanced energy security. The subprogramme will support the implementation of the Asian and Pacific Energy Forum and other regional agreements and mandates, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and identify policy options and strategies for improved access to affordable, reliable and sustainable energy for all. It will also identify policies and strategies to promote investment in energy infrastructure and clean energy technologies. The ESCAP Committee on Energy will furthermore be

integrated into the preparatory process for the second Asian and Pacific Energy Forum (2018) and complement the implementation of the Sustainable Energy for All initiative at the regional level.

84. Evidence-based policy and trends analysis of issues highlighted in the outcome document of the Asian and Pacific Energy Forum, including sustainable energy for all, will allow identification of emerging issues and means to address new challenges. Ad hoc expert group meetings and policy dialogues will enable the review of such analysis, as well as direct consultation and guidance from technical experts and partners, in order to allow exploration of innovative approaches. Capacity-building will focus on specific issues identified through such analysis.

85. The subprogramme will be delivered in collaboration with international, regional, subregional and national institutions dealing with energy security and its sustainable use, with focus given to both research and regional cooperation.

Legislative mandates

General Assembly resolution 55/2, United Nations Millennium Declaration, is proposed for deletion from the list of legislative mandates.

General Assembly resolutions

70/1	Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development

Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions

2015/30	Restructuring the conference structure of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific to be fit for the evolving post-2015 development agenda

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific resolutions

71/1	Restructuring the conference structure of the Commission to be fit for the evolving post-2015 development agenda

Programme 17
Economic development in Europe

86. Modifications to the biennial programme plan for the period 2016-2017 take into account General Assembly resolution 70/1. Specifically, revisions are proposed under programme 17, Economic development in Europe, to paragraph 17.9 of the overall orientation; paragraph 17.17 of the strategy for subprogramme 1, Environment; subparagraph 17.19 (c) of the strategy for subprogramme 2, Transport; paragraph 17.23 of the strategy for subprogramme 3, Statistics; paragraph 17.26 of the strategy for subprogramme 4, Economic cooperation and integration; paragraph 17.33 of the strategy for subprogramme 5, Sustainable energy; paragraph 17.36 of the strategy for subprogramme 6, Trade; paragraph 17.41 of the strategy for subprogramme 7, Forestry and timber; and paragraph 17.51 of the strategy for subprogramme 8, Housing, land management and population.

Overall orientation

Paragraph 17.9 of A/69/6/Rev.1

87. The programme will actively contribute to integrated and coordinated follow-up to and implementation of the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and environmental fields, including the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, which adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, the Third United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, the 20-year review of the Beijing Programme for Action and the comprehensive 10-year review of the Almaty Programme of Action.

Subprogramme 1
Environment

Strategy

Paragraph 17.17 of A/69/6/Rev.1

88. Other activities will include the promotion of sustainable development in the region, as well as the implementation of the outcomes of the regional and global summits and conferences on environment and sustainable development, in particular the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Subprogramme 2
Transport

Strategy

Subparagraph 17.19 (c) of A/69/6/Rev.1

89. To achieve goals in the above four functional areas, the subprogramme will:

(c) Effectively follow up on the transport-related outcome of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and contribute to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Subprogramme 3
Statistics

Strategy

Paragraph 17.23 of A/69/6/Rev.1

90. The subprogramme will work on priorities identified by the ECE member States, with a focus on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular on measuring sustainable development; globalization; population, poverty and inequality; promoting modernization of statistical production, including the use of geospatial information; and capacity-building, taking into account recent

methodological and technological development in official statistics. Work will be undertaken in close cooperation with experts from ECE member States and international organizations through expert groups performing specific tasks within a set time frame and resulting in the development of methodological and practical guidelines, including training materials.

Subprogramme 4
Economic cooperation and integration

Strategy

Paragraph 17.26 of A/69/6/Rev.1

91. The Economic Cooperation, Trade and Land Management Division is responsible for implementing the subprogramme. The subprogramme will contribute to the follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by assisting ECE member States, particularly those with economies in transition, to create an enabling environment for innovation and competitiveness at the national and regional levels.

Subprogramme 5
Sustainable energy

Strategy

Paragraph 17.33 of A/69/6/Rev.1

92. The Sustainable Energy Division is responsible for implementing the subprogramme. The subprogramme will promote international policy dialogue and cooperation among Governments, energy industries and other stakeholders. This work will contribute to fostering sustainable energy development in States Members of the United Nations, improving their access to affordable and clean energy for all within the Sustainable Energy for All initiative of the Secretary-General and reducing greenhouse gas emissions and the carbon footprint of the energy sector. The subprogramme will focus on issues related to energy security, energy efficiency, cleaner electricity production from fossil fuels, renewable energy, coal mine methane, the United Nations Framework Classification related to energy and mineral reserves and resources and natural gas. The subprogramme will continue its energy security dialogue and contribute to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Subprogramme 6
Trade

Strategy

Paragraph 17.36 of A/69/6/Rev.1

93. The Economic Cooperation, Trade and Land Management Division is responsible for implementing the subprogramme. The subprogramme contributes to the establishment of an open, rule-based, predictable and non-discriminatory trading

system, especially in the ECE less economically developed and landlocked developing countries. It takes into account the international recognition of trade as a key vehicle for achieving sustained economic growth, the elimination of poverty and greater regional integration by United Nations summits and conferences on sustainable development and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Subprogramme 7
Forestry and timber

Strategy

Paragraph 17.41 of A/69/6/Rev.1

94. The subprogramme promotes the sustainable management of forests through the sound and legal use of forest products (including raw material, energy and forest ecosystem services), based on appropriate policies and institutions. Priorities for 2016-2017 will be guided primarily by the outcomes of the joint session of the ECE Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry and the FAO European Forestry Commission (Metsä 2013). The subprogramme supports the development of cross-sectoral and cross-institutional policies promoting sustainable forest management, and enhanced forest governance in line with the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development. Furthermore, the subprogramme contributes to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by supporting sustainable management of forests, soils and grasslands and by monitoring the status of forests and their effect on climate change mitigation.

Subprogramme 8
Housing, land management and population

Strategy

Paragraph 17.51 of A/69/6/Rev.1

95. The subprogramme will contribute to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in energy, environmental protection and other topics related to housing, urban planning, land management and population dynamics.

Legislative mandates

General Assembly resolution 55/2, United Nations Millennium Declaration, is proposed for deletion from the list of legislative mandates.

General Assembly resolutions

69/313	Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (Addis Ababa Action Agenda)
70/1	Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Programme 18
Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean

96. Modifications to the biennial programme plan for the period 2016-2017 take into account General Assembly resolution 70/1. Specifically, revisions are proposed under programme 18, Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean, to paragraphs 18.3, 18.6, 18.16 and 18.17 of the overall orientation; paragraph 18.36 of the strategy for subprogramme 5, Social development and equality; subparagraph 18.45 (c) of the strategy for subprogramme 7, Population and development; paragraphs 18.49 and 18.51 of the strategy for subprogramme 8, Sustainable development and human settlements; paragraph 18.56 of the strategy for subprogramme 9, Natural resources and infrastructure; subparagraph 18.62 (c) of the strategy for subprogramme 10, Planning of public administration; paragraphs 18.68 and 18.70 of the strategy for subprogramme 11, Statistics; the objective and paragraph 18.73 of the strategy for subprogramme 12, Subregional activities in Central America, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Haiti and Mexico; and paragraph 18.77 of the strategy for subprogramme 13, Subregional activities in the Caribbean.

Overall orientation

Paragraph 18.3 of A/69/6/Rev.1

97. The Commission will continue to pursue key objectives shared by all the regional commissions, to support the development pillar of the United Nations, to foster economic integration at the subregional and regional levels, to promote the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the resulting internationally agreed Sustainable Development Goals and to facilitate sustainable development by helping to bridge economic, social and environmental gaps between and among countries in the region and the industrialized economies.

Paragraph 18.6 of A/69/6/Rev.1

98. The main guidelines and overarching orientation for the formulation of the strategic framework for the biennium 2016-2017 were drawn from the internationally agreed development goals stemming from the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields, the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex), as well as the new set of Sustainable Development Goals deriving from the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Paragraphs 18.16 and 18.17 of A/69/6/Rev.1

99. To that end, the Commission will emphasize analytical, normative, advocacy and capacity-building work to strengthen the design of sustainable development strategies and public policies and to facilitate the continuous monitoring of their practical implementation as part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Operational services in the areas of specialized information, technical cooperation and training will foster cooperation, networking and sharing of good practices at the subregional, regional and interregional levels, including South-South cooperation.

100. ECLAC will continue to work on the integrated and comprehensive follow-up to the world summits from a regional perspective, in particular the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and in articulating the region's approach to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. For that purpose, ECLAC will reinforce its leading role as the convener of the regional coordination mechanism to coordinate the work programme of the specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system in the region, which reports to the Economic and Social Council and to the General Assembly. The Commission will continue its active participation to foster substantive coordination among all participating entities in the Executive Committee on Economic and Social Affairs.

Subprogramme 5
Social development and equality

Strategy

Paragraph 18.36 of A/69/6/Rev.1

101. The Social Development Division will be responsible for the implementation of the subprogramme. It will work in close collaboration with other ECLAC divisions, in particular the Division for Gender Affairs and the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE), as well as with ECLAC subregional headquarters and national offices and with other agencies of the United Nations system. The strategy will take into account the internationally agreed development goals stemming from the major United Nations conferences in the economic and social fields, especially those deriving from the Rio+20 agenda and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Subprogramme 7
Population and development

Strategy

Subparagraph 18.45 (c) of A/69/6/Rev.1

102. Its strategy will be:

(c) To provide support to the countries of the region in the follow-up to the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, in the fulfilment of the Strategy for the Implementation in Latin America and the Caribbean of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing and in monitoring the goals and objectives stemming from the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Subprogramme 8
Sustainable development and human settlements

Strategy

Paragraph 18.49 of A/69/6/Rev.1

103. The Sustainable Development and Human Settlements Division will be responsible for the implementation of the subprogramme and will work in close coordination with other ECLAC divisions and offices in order to mainstream the comprehensive approach to sustainable development in the work programme of the Commission, in particular with respect to climate change and the Sustainable Development Goals in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Paragraph 18.51 of A/69/6/Rev.1

104. The second covers the sustainability of the human settlements, encompassing issues such as urban development, sustainable cities, land use and metropolitan areas. The United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), which will be one of the first global conferences after the approval of the 2030 Agenda, will be held in 2016. The subprogramme will participate in the process by making proposals to face the upcoming challenges. In addition, the support to the Regional Meeting of Ministers and High-level Authorities of the Housing and Urban Development Sector in Latin America and the Caribbean will be crucial for the appropriation of Habitat III outcomes in the region.

Subprogramme 9
Natural resources and infrastructure

Strategy

Paragraph 18.56 of A/69/6/Rev.1

105. The Natural Resources and Infrastructure Division will be responsible for implementing the subprogramme, in close coordination with other ECLAC divisions and offices, in particular the Division of International Trade and Integration, the Financing for Development Division, the Sustainable Development and Human Settlements Division, the Division of Production, Productivity and Management and the subregional headquarters in Mexico. The strategy will include providing stakeholders of the region with analytical studies and systematized information and data in terms of regulation and management of natural resources and the provision of public utility and infrastructure services in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Subprogramme 10
Planning of public administration

Strategy

Subparagraph 18.62 (c) of A/69/6/Rev.1

106. ILPES will concentrate its research activities and technical cooperation and training efforts in fostering a new thinking on regional integration and cooperation, in particular regarding:

(c) Coordination among levels of government, from the global development agenda to regional, national and local action, including the territorial expression of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; the decentralization and strengthening of local development capabilities; structural change and regional convergence; gender mainstreaming in budget planning; land-use planning; and valuing of environmental public goods.

Subprogramme 11
Statistics

Strategy

Paragraph 18.68 of A/69/6/Rev.1

107. Two important features of the subprogramme strategy should be stressed. On the one hand, the activities will be carried out in close coordination with the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC. The activities of the subprogramme reflect the thematic priorities identified by the Conference, as it considers national accounts, environmental accounts, economic and environmental statistics, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, broader measures of welfare and social indicators. The subprogramme will act as coordinator of regional and global activities, including joint actions with the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the regional commissions and other United Nations entities working in the area of statistics. Collaboration with other international agencies (such as IADB, ILO, IMF, the World Bank and WTO) and international expert groups, such as the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts, will be also envisaged. The subprogramme will convey the experience and interests of the subregion in global events, such as the United Nations Statistical Commission and the Committee for the Coordination of Statistics Activities.

Paragraph 18.70 of A/69/6/Rev.1

108. Regarding the joint work with other ECLAC divisions, special attention will be paid to the implementation of gender-sensitive indicators in collaboration with the Division of Gender Affairs; support in the use of economic indicators and demographic data in collaboration with the Economic Development and Population divisions, respectively, the provision of data from household surveys and other social indicators to the Social Development Division, the development of environmental indicators in collaboration with the Sustainable Development and Human Settlements and the Natural Resources and Infrastructure divisions, and the

provision of relevant information to monitor the progress of the region to attain the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Subprogramme 12
Subregional activities in Central America, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Haiti and Mexico

Objective of the Organization: To achieve dynamic growth and sustainable, inclusive and equitable development within a robust and democratic institutional framework and to fulfil the internationally agreed development goals, including those set forth as a result of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Strategy

Paragraph 18.73 of A/69/6/Rev.1

109. This subprogramme, which focuses on the countries of the Central American isthmus, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Haiti and Mexico, will be executed by the ECLAC subregional headquarters in Mexico in close coordination with other ECLAC divisions and offices. The strategy to be followed will take special account of the relevant provisions of internationally agreed development goals, including those resulting from the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular regarding the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger, the promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment, ensuring environmental sustainability and building a global partnership for development.

Subprogramme 13
Subregional activities in the Caribbean

Strategy

Paragraph 18.77 of A/69/6/Rev.1

110. The strategy is built on four pillars. First, implementation of the activities will occur within the context of coordination and collaboration with other divisions of ECLAC and the wider United Nations system. Secondly, as the secretariat for the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee, the subregional headquarters for the Caribbean will, through alignment with the guidance provided by the Committee and the identification of priority areas and development challenges, ensure continued relevance to the needs of the subregion. Thirdly, within the context of the internationally agreed development goals, the activities will facilitate the active engagement of Caribbean countries in the follow-up to global conferences, including those deriving from the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Fourthly, a multidisciplinary approach will be pursued in responding to the development needs of the countries served by the subprogramme, through the following: (a) financing for development, fiscal management and market diversification, within the context of assimilating Caribbean economies into the global economy; (b) broadening the monitoring mechanism for measuring progress in the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy; (c) facilitating wider application of information and communications technology for development and knowledge

management; (d) enhancing the role of social development within the context of the broader sustainable development process; and (e) strengthening the statistical capacity of Caribbean countries to support more effective evidence-based policymaking.

Legislative mandates

General Assembly resolutions

69/313 Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (Addis Ababa Action Agenda)

70/1 Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Programme 19
Economic and social development in Western Asia

111. Modifications to the biennial programme plan for programme 19, Economic and social development in Western Asia, for the period 2016-2017 take into account General Assembly resolutions 69/313 and 70/1.

112. In line with General Assembly resolution 69/313, revisions are proposed to the objective, indicator of achievement (d) (i) and paragraph 19.41 of the strategy for subprogramme 3, Economic development and integration; and to expected accomplishment (b) of subprogramme 4, Technology for development and regional integration.

113. In line with General Assembly resolution 70/1, revisions are proposed under the overall orientation, specifically to paragraphs 19.5, 19.7, 19.8, and 19.25; paragraphs 19.32 and 19.34 of the strategy for subprogramme 1, Integrated management of natural resources for sustainable development; the addition of a new expected accomplishment (d) with two related indicators of achievement, and revisions to paragraph 19.37 of the strategy for subprogramme 2, Social development; paragraph 19.42 of the strategy for subprogramme 3; expected accomplishment (a) and related indicator of achievement (i) of subprogramme 4, Technology for development and regional integration; and expected accomplishment (c) of subprogramme 5, Statistics for evidence-based policymaking.

Overall orientation

Paragraph 19.5 of A/69/6/Rev.1

114. As the regional arm of the United Nations, ESCWA will continue to foster economic integration at the subregional and regional levels, to promote the regional implementation of internationally agreed development goals, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and to support regional sustainable development by addressing economic, social and environmental policy gaps in its member States.

Paragraph 19.7 of A/69/6/Rev.1

115. The mandates resulting from the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development will have a considerable impact on the work of ESCWA in the biennium 2016-2017.

Paragraph 19.8 of A/69/6/Rev.1

116. To address regional and global priorities established under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, ESCWA engaged in an extensive process of internal consultations for this proposed strategic framework to ensure that it will contribute to its four-year vision (2015-2019).

Paragraph 19.25 of A/69/6/Rev.1

117. The outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) asserted the need for comparable, reliable statistics on sustainable development. Member States and the relevant bodies of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates, have supported the regional commissions in collecting and compiling official statistics. Member States have also committed to mobilizing financial resources and building the capacity of developing countries to produce statistical data related to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Subprogramme 1
Integrated management of natural resources for sustainable development

Strategy

Paragraph 19.32 of A/69/6/Rev.1

118. The Sustainable Development Policies Division will implement the subprogramme. The interrelated and complex challenges and current social and political tensions provide a sense of urgency for concerted efforts to strengthen the interlinkages between the economic, social and environmental pillars of sustainable development. Regional challenges include rise in demand for food, water and energy, leading to unsustainable use of resources and food insecurity; unsustainable production and consumption patterns; and inefficient energy use in key productive and consuming sectors, as well as climate change and its impact on natural resources.

Paragraph 19.34 of A/69/6/Rev.1 (new subparagraph (f))

119. ESCWA will:

(f) Support member States in the alignment of national plans in the fields of water, energy and food security to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals;

(g) Foster regional approaches on climate change adaptation and mitigation by supporting the development of mechanisms to deal with climate change impacts, including those on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as examine impact and vulnerability assessments and associated socioeconomic and environmental issues to inform the policymaking processes, and to support member States in their negotiations and policy design.

Subprogramme 2
Social development

Objective of the Organization: To enhance the capacity of member States to adopt and implement rights-based social policies that promote social justice and lead to equitable, inclusive and participatory socioeconomic development

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(d) Increased ability of member States to effectively respond to and engage in activities to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development	(i) Increased number of national plans and strategies integrating the Sustainable Development Goals (ii) Increased number of instances where member States engage in regional dialogues on the implementation and follow-up and review of the Sustainable Development Goals

Strategy

Paragraph 19.37 of A/69/6/Rev.1

120. This subprogramme is implemented by the Social Development Division. During the biennium 2016-2017, ESCWA will build on the experience gained during the previous bienniums to advocate the principles of social justice as a guiding framework for public policymaking. Specific attention will be paid to: promoting and implementing policies that foster social inclusion and social protection and address the social dimensions of poverty; mainstreaming key population and human development issues into policymaking, focusing on youth development and international migration; and upholding participatory development and civic engagement. The subprogramme will also address the capacity needs of member States to implement, follow-up and review the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, with a particular focus on Sustainable Development Goals pertaining to the social dimension of sustainable development.

Subprogramme 3
Economic development and integration

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(d) Member States and regional institutions develop policies and implementation mechanisms aimed at economic policy convergence	(i) Number of member States taking steps towards coordinating their fiscal and monetary policies in accordance with commitment to the Addis Ababa Action Agenda

Strategy

Paragraphs 19.41 and 19.42 of A/69/6/Rev.1

121. The Economic Development and Globalization Division is responsible for the subprogramme. The legislative mandates for this subprogramme are: the 2013 report of the Secretary-General on global economic governance and development (A/67/769), the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017), the outcome documents of the International Conferences on Financing for Development, comprising the Monterrey Consensus, the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development, the Integrated Transport System in the Arab Mashreq and the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and ESCWA.

122. ESCWA will promote equitable growth and sustainability, regional integration and economic governance by supporting member States in reforming economic institutions and developing and implementing policies based on good governance; designing and implementing pro-poor rights and evidence-based economic plans and policies; working towards creating and improving access to decent and competitive jobs for men and women; fostering policies and implementation mechanisms aimed at economic policy convergence; and enhancing regional integration, which can accelerate progress towards implementing the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development.

Subprogramme 4
Technology for development and regional integration

Objective of the Organization: To promote inclusive and sustainable development by building an information society and knowledge economy in ESCWA member States that leverage technology and innovation in accordance with the regional development requirements and the outcomes of the internationally agreed development objectives

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Member States develop or update strategies and policies that leverage human resources, innovation and modern technology towards a knowledge-based economy and information society as the new paradigm for employment and sustainable economic growth within the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development	(i) Number of public institutions adopting strategies, road maps and/or solutions to foster technological innovations that enhance economic growth and promote the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (ii) Number of member States that develop or update strategies and policies that leverage information and communications technology (ICT) and innovation to enhance the impact on social and economic development

(b) Member States coordinate implementation of harmonized policy, legal and regulatory frameworks in science, technology, innovation and ICT, to foster the development of regional platforms and services in line with the Addis Ababa Action Agenda	(i) Number of member States implementing harmonized policies and/or legal and regulatory frameworks in science, technology, innovation and ICT (ii) Increased number of regional science, technology, innovation and ICT initiatives that aim to build a knowledge society and/or encourage complementary partnerships for economic development in the Arab region

Subprogramme 5
Statistics for evidence-based policymaking

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(c) Regional and national statistical institutions adopt agreements and guidelines for harmonization and comparability of official statistics, including methodologies and processes related to the Sustainable Development Goals	(i) Number of strategies adopted for the harmonization of statistics in the region reached between ESCWA and national statistical offices (ii) Increased number of agreements and guidelines developed under the auspices of ESCWA and adopted by the Statistical Committee of ESCWA or another statistical authority in the region

Legislative mandates

General Assembly resolution 55/2, United Nations Millennium Declaration, is proposed for deletion from the list of legislative mandates.

General Assembly resolutions

69/313 Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (Addis Ababa Action Agenda)

70/1 Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Programme 20
Human rights

123. Modifications to the biennial programme plan for the period 2016-2017 take into account General Assembly resolution 70/1. Specifically, revisions are proposed under programme 20, Human rights, to paragraphs 20.1 and 20.2 of the overall orientation; and, under subprogramme 1, Human rights mainstreaming, right to development, and research and analysis, to subparagraphs 20.10 (d) and (e) of the strategy for section B, Right to development, and expected accomplishment (c) and the related indicator of achievement and paragraph 20.11 (a) of the strategy for section C, Research and analysis.

Overall orientation

Paragraphs 20.1 and 20.2 of A/69/6/Rev.1

124. The overarching objective of the United Nations human rights programme is to promote and protect the effective enjoyment by all of all human rights. Its mandate derives from Articles 1, 13, 55 and 62 of the Charter of the United Nations; the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, including its principles and recommendations, adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights and subsequently endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 48/121; Assembly resolution 48/141 establishing the post of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights; international human rights instruments adopted by the United Nations; the outcomes of relevant United Nations conferences and summits; and the resolutions and decisions of policymaking bodies, including, in particular, Assembly resolutions 57/300, on strengthening of the United Nations: an agenda for further change, 60/1 on the 2005 World Summit Outcome and 60/251 and 65/281 on the Human Rights Council and its review, and 70/1, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development". The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) will also be guided by international humanitarian law, as applicable.

125. The programme is guided by the principles of universality, objectivity, impartiality, indivisibility and non-selectivity in removing obstacles to the full realization of all human rights and in preventing the continuation of human rights violations, including with relevant parties. It undertakes to give practical effect to the will and resolve of the world community, as expressed through the United Nations, including in the 2005 World Summit Outcome and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which sets forth 17 Sustainable Development Goals and 169 targets that seek to realize the human rights of all and to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, to ensure that all human beings can fulfil their potential in dignity and equality and in a healthy environment and to leave no one behind. They build upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals, set out in General Assembly resolutions 55/2 and 65/1. The United Nations human rights programme has a role in making development equitable, sustainable and responsive to the needs of people and in relation to conflict prevention and resolution.

Subprogramme 1
Human rights mainstreaming, right to development, and research and analysis

B. Right to development

Strategy

Subparagraphs 20.10 (d) and (e) of A/69/6/Rev.1

126. This part of the subprogramme will pursue a multidimensional strategy to support the implementation of the right to development in accordance with the Declaration on the Right to Development, the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action and other relevant mandates. The strategy will focus on:

(d) Encouraging the promotion and protection of the right to development in global development partnerships, as reflected in the Sustainable Development Goals, through advocacy, networking, technical advice and the establishment of partnerships and other kinds of cooperation;

(e) Promoting the implementation of the right to development in technical assistance to requesting States and, taking into account a human rights-based approach, in national development strategies, such as poverty reduction strategy papers, where they exist, national Sustainable Development Goals strategies and United Nations development frameworks, through close cooperation with Member States and United Nations agencies, funds and programmes.

C. Research and analysis

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(c) Enhanced contribution of OHCHR to the effective achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals	Increased number of activities carried out and measures taken in contribution to the effective achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals

Strategy

Subparagraph 20.11 (a) of A/69/6/Rev.1

127. This part of the subprogramme will be responsible for enhancing the research and analysis of human rights issues, problems and challenges, and the development and application of expertise on human rights themes and methodologies. It will be responsible for the consolidation, further development and strengthening of substantive human rights expertise to support effective engagement with countries and global and national-level partnerships, and to lead efforts within the United Nations system to meet current human rights challenges. Strengthened expertise will be used to support States' efforts in overcoming human rights implementation gaps and will provide the basis for OHCHR to work on technical cooperation, advocacy, training, policy development, analysis, protection and advice to partners at all levels. The strategy will focus on:

(a) Advocacy for the indivisibility, interdependence and interrelatedness of all human rights by enhancing substantive and methodological expertise; the

promotion and protection of all human rights; the development and consolidation of partnerships for strengthening national capacity in the areas of the rule of law, democracy and good governance at all levels; human rights-based approaches to development, counter-terrorism and anti-trafficking measures as well as to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and poverty reduction strategies and programmes; the protection of human rights in the context of the fight against terrorism; the protection of human rights in the context of business activities; contributing to the elimination of all forms of discrimination, racism, including its contemporary forms, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance; and strengthening respect for the enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by everyone, inter alia, by combating discrimination.

Legislative mandates

General Assembly resolutions

70/1 Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Programme 22
Palestine refugees

128. Modifications to the biennial programme plan for the period 2016-2017 take into account General Assembly resolution 70/1. Specifically, revisions are proposed under programme 22, Palestine refugees, to paragraph 22.6 of the overall orientation.

Overall orientation

Paragraph 22.6 of A/69/6Rev.1

129. UNRWA strategy is aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals. Poverty and human rights, which are major components of the Goals, are also at the core of the UNRWA medium-term strategy. With respect to the former, both the Goals and the medium-term strategy recognize that poverty is multidimensional and that its mitigation and eradication can be achieved only through a coordinated, multisectoral response. The Goals focus on achieving food security, attaining gender equality, achieving peaceful and inclusive societies, responding to changing health needs, attaining equitable and inclusive quality education, water and sanitation, and reducing inequalities, among other things.

General Assembly resolutions

70/1 Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

United Nations A/71/86–E/2016/13

General Assembly
Economic and Social Council

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General Assembly
Seventy-first session
Item 60 of the preliminary list*
Permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources

Economic and Social Council
2016 session
24 July 2015-27 July 2016
Agenda item 16
Economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem, and the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan

Economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem, and the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan

Note by the Secretary-General

Summary

In its resolution 2015/17, the Economic and Social Council requested the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventieth session, through the Council, a report on the implementation of that resolution. The Assembly, in its resolution 70/225, also requested the Secretary-General to submit a report to it at its seventy-first session. The present report, which was prepared by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, has been submitted in compliance with the resolutions of the Council and the Assembly.

The report covers persistent Israeli practices and policies, particularly those that are in violation of international humanitarian law and international human rights law and that affect the social and economic conditions of the people living under its military occupation. Israel employs discriminatory policies and practices, excessive use of force and mobility restrictions, including the blockade on Gaza, settlement expansion, property destruction and exploitation of natural resources in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and the occupied Syrian Golan. Impunity is afforded to Israeli security and military personnel and settlers. The cumulative impact of these policies and practices not only violates the rights of the population, but also exacerbates their social and economic conditions.

* A/71/50.

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The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia would like to express its appreciation for the substantive contributions of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the League of Arab States (LAS), the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, the Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process.

I. Introduction

1. The Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 2015/17, and the General Assembly, in its resolution 70/225, expressed concerns over the practices of Israel, the occupying Power, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and the occupied Syrian Golan that were in violation of international humanitarian law. Those practices have ranged from causing death and injury to civilians, including children, women and peaceful demonstrators, all of whom must be protected in accordance with international humanitarian law, to violence by illegal armed Israeli settlers against Palestinian civilians and their properties, to the continued detention of thousands of Palestinians, including children and women, under harsh conditions. The Council and Assembly also expressed their concern regarding the continued expansion by Israel of settlements, the construction of the wall inside the Occupied Palestinian Territory, the exploitation of Palestinian natural resources, the increased demolition of homes, the state of economic institutions, agricultural lands and infrastructure, the revocation of residency rights of Palestinians in and around occupied East Jerusalem and the ongoing Israeli military operations throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, as well as policies of closure and severe restrictions on the movement of persons and goods, including what in effect amounts to a blockade on the Gaza Strip. In the above-mentioned resolutions, the Council and Assembly also highlighted the detrimental impact of Israeli practices.

II. The Occupied Palestinian Territory

2. In spite of the 2004 advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the *Legal Consequences of the Construction of a Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory* (A/ES-10/273 and Corr.1), as well as other assertions (see General Assembly resolution 70/88 and A/69/711-S/2015/1), Israel continues to challenge the established fact that international humanitarian law, particularly the Fourth Geneva Convention, is applicable in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.[1] The recurrent violations by Israel of international human rights law and international humanitarian law have become entrenched through Israeli policies and practices, and the lack of accountability for the violations further deepens the Palestinians' sense of injustice (see A/70/392, paras. 14-15).

3. Israeli policies and practices undermine the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and, since 1967, their cumulative effects have had a debilitating effect on the Palestinians (see A/HRC/31/43, para. 6, A/70/351, para. 79 and A/70/392, para. 86).

4. Tensions and violence erupted in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, particularly in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, in October 2015, in the context of prolonged occupation, settlement expansion and settler violence[2] and in the aftermath of clashes at the Al-Aqsa Mosque, with Palestinians perceiving Israel as trying to change the status quo at the holy sites. On 26 January 2016, in his remarks to the Security Council on the situation in the Middle East, the Secretary-

[1] See resolution 70/88 and Alan Baker, "International humanitarian law, ICRC and Israel's status in the Territories", *International Review of the Red Cross*, vol. 94, No. 888 (Winter 2012).

[2] Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, "2016 Humanitarian needs overview". Available from http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/hno_december29_final.pdf.

General highlighted the growing frustration felt by Palestinians, linked to Israeli actions that were chipping away the viability of a Palestinian State and the ability of the Palestinian people to live in dignity; in a briefing to the Council on 22 October 2015, his deputy referred to the stifling and humiliating occupation that had lasted almost half a century.

Segregation and discrimination

5. The existence and expansion of illegal Israeli settlements on occupied Palestinian land lie at the heart of discriminatory Israeli policies and human rights violations, which include home demolitions and the resulting displacement, discriminatory allocation of water and provision of access to land, movement restrictions, and the discriminatory legal system (see A/HRC/31/73, para. 32).

6. The settlers' presence increases tension, and the Israeli security forces and army are deployed to defend the settlements. Consequently, the security of Israeli settlers outplays that of Palestinians, undermining the equal application of the law (see A/70/351, para. 80).

7. The dual justice system in the occupied territory appears to be pitted against the protected population (see A/70/392, para. 85). While Palestinians lack access to civil justice, it is rare for Israeli settlers to be held accountable for acts of violence they commit against Palestinians, and Israeli army and security forces are also seldom held accountable for the violations they commit against Palestinians (see A/70/82-E/2015/13, paras. 8, 9, 30 and 51).

8. The Israeli zoning and planning regime in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, is restrictive and discriminatory and is incompatible with international law. The regime caters to the interests of Israeli settlements at the expense of the needs of the Palestinians. It makes it practically impossible for Palestinians living in Area C, which constitutes 62 per cent of the West Bank (see A/70/82-E/2015/13, para. 16), to obtain building permits (see A/HRC/31/43, para. 45). Palestinians in East Jerusalem suffer from the same difficulties. Even if they manage to find land on which to build, which is limited in the city, they often cannot afford the high prices of building permits (see A/70/392, para. 65).

9. Discrimination in planning and zoning is reflected in the land available for construction in Area C, where Israeli authorities have permitted Palestinian construction on what amounts to approximately 0.4 per cent of Area C, compared to 20 per cent of the same area with approved plans for illegal Israeli settlements.[3] Only 1.5 per cent of Palestinian permit applications are approved.[4] Similarly in East Jerusalem, Palestinian construction is only allowed on 13 per cent of the municipal area of the city that is already built up, while 35 per cent of city area has been expropriated for Israeli settlements.[5]

[3] See "'One UN' approach to spatial planning in 'Area C' of the occupied West Bank" (United Nations, September 2015).

[4] Press release, Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (17 February 2016). Available from http://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/humanitarian-coordinator-calls-israel-halt-demolitions.

[5] See "2016 Humanitarian needs overview: Occupied Palestinian Territory" (Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs).

10. As of May 2015, an estimated 13,000 Palestinian structures in Area C[6] and 20,000 homes in East Jerusalem[7] lacked Israeli permits and were under threat of pending demolition orders. Little legal protection is afforded to Palestinians facing demolition orders, creating a coercive environment that eventually drives communities off the land they had inhabited for generations (A/HRC/31/43, para. 46, and A/70/392, para. 39).

11. Since 1967, the Government of Israel has sought to secure a Jewish majority and attain full control over East Jerusalem, through the construction of Israeli settlements, outposts, bypass roads and the wall. Those measures have been coupled with a set of discriminatory policies targeting Palestinians, including freezing the registration of land ownership in Jerusalem and its environs.[8]

12. The Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967 expressed grave concern about Israeli policies that aim to achieve a particular demographic balance in East Jerusalem. Those policies work to stifle the natural growth of the Palestinian population in the city, preventing Palestinians from moving there and pressuring Palestinians to leave. The policies violate the rights of Palestinians to freedom of movement, adequate housing, access to education and health services, respect for family life and freedom from discrimination (see A/70/392, para. 68). The Special Rapporteur was also troubled by the fact the Israeli Local Outline Plan — Jerusalem 2000 does not mention Palestinians or East Jerusalem, but instead refers to "Arab residents in the eastern part of the city" (see A/70/392, paras. 62 and 68).

13. The above-mentioned policies and restrictions, coupled with the construction of the wall in the West Bank, have exacerbated the socioeconomic situation of the Palestinians of East Jerusalem. More than 75 per cent of them live under the poverty line, compared to 30.8 per cent of the residents of Israel (2013).[7]

14. In addition to the severe lack of services for and neglect of Palestinian neighbourhoods in East Jerusalem,[7] and discriminatory budget allocation (see A/70/406 and Corr.1, para. 37), Palestinian residents of Jerusalem must contend with Israeli residency policies. Under one Israeli law, residencies of Palestinians who fail to continuously prove their residency in the city are withdrawn. Another law denies the children and spouses of Palestinian permanent residents automatic residency status in the city. As a result, several thousand Palestinian children are without residency status (see A/70/392, para. 63).

15. Israeli policies in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, apparently have the common objective of forcible displacement and the fostering of a hostile environment that contributed to the expansion of settlements (see A/70/406 and Corr.1, para. 34).

Excessive use of force and arbitrary detention

16. The eruption of violence in October throughout the West Bank led to a sharp rise in casualties. Overall, during the reporting period, 212 Palestinians were killed

[6] Ibid.
[7] See Association for Civil Rights in Israel, "East Jerusalem 2015: facts and figures" (May 2015).
[8] United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), *Right to Develop: Planning Palestinian Communities in East Jerusalem* (East Jerusalem, 2015), p. 1.

by the Israeli army, security forces or settlers including 40 children. Another 16,333 were injured, including more than 2,600 children.[9]

17. Of the Palestinian casualties, 188 were killed and approximately 15,000 injured after October 2015, many of whom were killed while allegedly carrying out attacks against Israelis.[10]

18. During the reporting period, 29 Israelis were also killed, including 26 civilians, and 272 were injured, including 169 civilians.

19. In the West Bank, accountability is generally lacking in cases of excessive use of force by Israeli security forces (see A/70/392, paras. 76-85). Serious concerns exist over the excessive use of force by Israeli security forces in the context of attacks and alleged attacks by Palestinians and during clashes, and ongoing settler violence (see A/HRC/31/73, para. 5), including cases, some of which have been captured on video, strongly suggesting unlawful killings (see A/HRC/31/40, para. 10, and A/HRC/31/73, paras. 19 and 23) in some instances appearing to amount to extrajudicial killings and summary executions. One such example is the shooting of Abed al-Fatah al-Sharif on 24 March 2016, in Hebron, West Bank, by an Israeli soldier as he lay incapacitated following his alleged role in a knife attack.[11]

20. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights expressed concern about reports of deaths attributed to a delay in the provision of medical assistance to wounded suspects, or owing to the intentional blocking of ambulances and first responders by Israeli security forces (see A/HRC/31/40, para. 16).

21. Israeli security forces have continued to use live ammunition in law enforcement operations in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, particularly since September 2015, reportedly in an extensive and often unwarranted manner. This includes the use of firearms against demonstrators and persons attempting to evacuate the wounded (see A/HRC/31/40, paras. 18-25).

22. In his report to the Human Rights Council on 11 January 2016, the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967 recalled the well-documented violations related to the Israeli occupation policies and saw a critical need for the international community to increase its protection of the Palestinian population (see A/HRC/31/73, para. 67).

Detention and ill-treatment

23. According to Addameer Prisoner Support and Human Rights Association, since 1967, up to 20 per cent of the Palestinian population had at some point been detained by Israeli authorities (see A/70/392, para. 73). By the end of January 2016,

[9] ESCWA calculations, based on information obtained from "Humanitarian bulletin" (Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, January 2016) and "Protection of civilians" (Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, 22-28 March 2015).

[10] Ibid.

[11] Press releases, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights: 16 November 2015, available from http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=16759&LangID=E; and 30 March 2016, available from http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=18544&LangID=E#sthash.L0WRsNrv.dpuf.

6,945 Palestinians were being held in Israeli prisons, including 568 administrative detainees.[12]

24. The number of Palestinian children in detention jumped from 193 in September 2015 to 415 in January 2016.[13] This sharp increase raises concerns about meeting international law requirements that children be arrested and detained only as a last resort.[14] In East Jerusalem, 860 Palestinian children were arrested, 136 of them between the ages of 7 and 11.[15]

25. A development of concern is the reinstatement of the administrative detention of children, which had not been in practice in East Jerusalem since 2000 and in the rest of the West Bank since 2011. Between October and December 2015, six children were placed in administrative detention by Israeli authorities.[15]

26. International humanitarian law[16] prohibits the transfer of detainees outside the occupied territory. However, the majority of Palestinian detainees, including children, are held in Israeli prisons inside Israel (A/70/392, para. 73). This constitutes a grave breach of the Fourth Geneva Convention (A/HRC/31/40, para. 43).

27. The utilization of administrative detention by Israel is inconsistent with the exceptional nature of detention permitted under article 78 of the Fourth Geneva Convention. During the reporting period, a number of Palestinian administrative detainees resorted to hunger strikes to protest their detention without charges (see A/HRC/31/40, paras. 42 and 44).

28. On 30 July 2015 the Israeli Knesset passed a law that allows force-feeding detainees on hunger strike, in a move that does not comply with human rights standards and is tantamount to cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment, even if intended for their benefit.[17] The Israeli Medical Association considers that forced feeding is equivalent to torture.[18]

29. According to B'tselem, ill-treatment, abuse and torture of Palestinian prisoners and detainees, particularly during interrogations, have continued with the backing of all State authorities.[19] B'tselem and Hamoked concluded in 2015 that cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment of Palestinian detainees was inherent, institutionalized and implemented with full immunity.[20]

30. The United Nations and partners continued to document cases of ill-treatment of children by Israeli security forces during their arrest and detention in the West Bank and East Jerusalem.[15]

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[12] B'tselem, http://www.btselem.org/statistics/detainees_and_prisoners (accessed 29 March 2016).

[13] Ibid.

[14] Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, "2016 Humanitarian needs overview". Available from http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/hno_december29_final.pdf.

[15] Information received from the United Nations Children's Fund.

[16] Articles 47 and 76 of the Fourth Geneva Convention.

[17] Press release, World Health Organization (WHO) (8 August 2015). Available from http://www.emro.who.int/pse/palestine-news/un-joint-statement-on-new-israeli-law-on-force-feeding-of-detainees.html.

[18] Israeli Medical Association, "The physician's guide to treating the detainee/prisoner on a hunger strike" (June 2014).

[19] B'tselem, "Abuse and torture of detainees are immoral and illegal measures" (15 December 2015).

[20] B'tselem and Hamoked, *Backed by the System: Abuse and Torture at the Shikma Interrogation Facility* (December 2015).

31. Medical negligence and lack of adequate medical care in the treatment of Palestinians in Israeli detention centres continue to be reported (A/70/406, para. 56).

32. On 20 July 2015, Israel amended its Penal Code regarding throwing stones, stipulating that anyone throwing stones or any other object at moving vehicles could be sentenced to 20 years of imprisonment. This has raised concerns since most of those charged with stone-throwing are Palestinian children (A/70/392, para. 71), and as of October 2015 the conviction rate for Palestinians arrested by Israeli security forces stood at a worrisome 99 per cent (see A/70/406, para. 53).

33. The Association for Civil Rights in Israel flagged a series of legislative changes and guidelines indicating that the central — and perhaps even the sole — consideration the authorities take into account is the deterrence of minors, and not their rehabilitation and return to normative conduct, which is contrary to the principles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.[21]

Population displacement, property destruction and land confiscation

34. In the Gaza Strip, over 76,000 people remain displaced as a consequence of the 2014 Israeli summer offensive.[22]

35. In the West Bank, the destruction of homes and livelihoods, forced evictions and relocation plans, settler violence, movement and access restrictions and, particularly in East Jerusalem, settler takeover of homes as well as laws regarding residency (see para. 14) have all contributed to the continued forced displacement of Palestinians.[2]

36. Home demolitions in the West Bank and East Jerusalem continue at an alarming rate, in violation of international humanitarian law, which prohibits the destruction of property in an occupied territory.[23]

37. During 2015, mostly citing the lack of building permits, Israeli authorities demolished 544 structures in the West Bank, including 79 in East Jerusalem, displacing 757 Palestinians.[24] In the first two months of 2016, more than 321 structures, including 88 homes, were demolished.[23] In addition to demolitions, Palestinians also face the threat of settlers taking over their homes (see A/70/392, para. 66). Among the structures destroyed in the West Bank, one third (108) had been provided as humanitarian assistance by aid organizations.[22]

38. In 2014, Israel resumed the practice of punitive home demolitions, whereby homes of the families of attackers or suspected attackers are demolished (see A/70/82-E/2015/13, para. 42). On 14 October 2015, the Government of Israel officially reinstated this policy, which includes sealing houses to render them uninhabitable.[25] Israeli authorities demolished or rendered uninhabitable 25 homes during 2015, and 4 during the first two months of 2016.[26]

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[21] Nisreen Alyan and Maytal Russo, "Arrested childhood: the ramifications of Israel's new strict policy toward minors suspected of involvement in stone throwing, security offenses, and disturbances" (Association for Civil Rights in Israel, February 2016).

[22] Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, "Humanitarian bulletin" (February 2016).

[23] Press Release, Humanitarian Coordinator calls on Israel to halt demolitions in the occupied West Bank immediately and to respect international law, 17 February 2016.

[24] Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, "Humanitarian bulletin" (January 2016).

[25] Information received from UNRWA.

[26] See B'tselem, http://www.btselem.org/punitive_demolitions/statistics (accessed 29 March 2016).

39. Proposals by the Israeli Government to revoke the residency rights of family members of suspected attackers (see A/HRC/31/40, para. 31) or to allow their deportation to Gaza are other causes for concern.[27] Such practices constitute a form of illegal collective punishment and violate the right of Palestinians to adequate housing, despite prohibitions of forced evictions.[28]

40. In 2015, the Government of Israel took significant procedural and legal steps towards relocating some 50 Palestinian Bedouin communities in Area C. The relocation may amount to individual and mass forcible transfers, which are a breach of the Fourth Geneva Convention (see A/HRC/31/43, para. 49). Such forcible transfers, which are apparently linked to Israeli settlement expansion (see A/70/351, para. 20), threaten the culture, social fabric and livelihoods of Bedouin communities. This was the case with approximately 150 Bedouin families that were relocated in the 1990s to make way for settlement expansion.[29]

41. Israel continues to confiscate and expropriate Palestinian land in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. Those measures also appear to be linked to the expansion of illegal settlements, the construction of the wall in the West Bank and the establishment of bypass roads mainly for the sole use of settlers.[30]

42. According to the Applied Research Institute — Jerusalem, in 2015 Israel confiscated 3,670.6 dunums[31] of land in the West Bank and 615.2 dunums in East Jerusalem.[30] In the first three months of 2016, Israel also confiscated a total of 3,842 dunums in the West Bank.[32] This is in addition to more than 1,010,000 dunums, which represents more than 20 per cent of the West Bank area, including East Jerusalem, that have been confiscated since 1967.[33]

43. On 15 April 2015, the Supreme Court of Israel reaffirmed the application of the Absentees' Property Law, which allows the continued confiscation of property and assets in East Jerusalem whose owners reside in other parts of the West Bank or in Gaza (see A/70/406, para. 48).

44. The Government of Israel continues to support and promote settler takeovers of land, through methods including building housing units, allocating agricultural lands for settlements, declaring sites as archaeological or national parks, and developing infrastructure on Palestinian land (see A/HRC/31/43, para. 13).

Settlements and settler violence

45. Israeli settlements and their expansion lie at the root of a broad spectrum of human rights violations in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem (see

[27] Lahav Harkov, *Jerusalem Post*, "Broad support in Knesset for bill to deport terrorists' families to Gaza" (9 March 2016). Available from http://www.jpost.com/Israel-News/Broad-support-for-bill-to-deport-terrorists-families-to-Gaza-447367.

[28] A/HRC/31/40, paras. 29 and 31; see also article 11 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

[29] Press release, Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (19 January 2016), available from https://www.ochaopt.org/documents/hc_unrwa_joint_statement_abu_nuwar_final.pdf; and information received from UNRWA.

[30] Information received from UNEP.

[31] 1 dunum = 1,000 square metres.

[32] Peace Now, "The Government declares 2,342 dunums south of Jericho as State Land" (15 March 2016). Available from http://peacenow.org.il/eng/JerichoDeclaration100316.

[33] Ibid.

A/HRC/31/43, para. 5). Israeli settlement policies also violate international humanitarian law and a number of Security Council resolutions (see A/70/351, paras. 83 and 84). The policies of the Government of Israel towards the settlements, including retroactive legalization of unauthorized outposts (25 since 2011),[34] amount to the unlawful transfer of its own population into occupied territory (see A/70/351, para. 83).

46. The settlements have led to the fragmentation of the West Bank, restricted Palestinian access to natural resources in the occupied territory and to the subsequent impediment to the Palestinian people's right to self-determination (see A/HRC/31/43, paras. 5 and 6).

47. By the end of 2014, there were approximately 570,700 Israeli settlers in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (370,700 in the West Bank and 200,000 in East Jerusalem),[35] living in more than 150 settlements[36] and approximately 100 outposts.[37] The United Nations Environment Programme reported that the settler population in the West Bank may have reached 750,000.[30]

Settler violence

48. Palestinians continue to suffer from settler violence, while settlers have been perceived as enjoying significant impunity for the attacks they perpetrate against Palestinians and their properties, notwithstanding a number of settler arrests in this context.[38]

49. In 2015, 898 Israeli settler attacks on Palestinians and their property, fields and religious sites were reported,[30] and in the first three months of 2016, 30 incidents of settler attacks resulted in injuries to Palestinians or damage to property.[39]

50. On 31 July 2015, settlers burned the Dawabsha family home in Duma, killing a toddler and his parents and badly injuring his four-year-old brother (see A/70/392, para. 47). In January 2016, an Israeli settler and a minor were indicted for this murder. On 20 March 2016, the home of Ibrahim Dawabsheh, who was the sole witness to the first arson attack, was also the target of an arson attack.[25]

Mobility restrictions and closure policies

51. Israel continues to impose disproportionate and discriminatory mobility restrictions on the Palestinian people, invoking security considerations, inconsistent with its obligations to ensure the right of Palestinians to freedom of movement and to public life (see A/HRC/31/40, para. 35).

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[34] The Rights Forum and Yesh Din, "Under the radar" (March 2015).

[35] Peace Now, "Settlement development data". Available from http://peacenow.org.il/eng/sites/default/files/Settlement_Development%20Data_241215.xls (accessed 10 March 2016).

[36] Press release, Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (17 September 2015). Available from http://www.pcbs.gov.ps/portals/_pcbs/PressRelease/Press_En_IsrSettlments2014E.pdf.

[37] Yesh Din, "From occupation to annexation: the silent adoption of the Levy report on retroactive authorization of illegal construction in the West Bank", position paper (Tel Aviv, February 2016).

[38] Information received from the Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, and A/70/351, paras. 22 and 23.

[39] Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, "Protection of civilians" (29 March-4 April 2016). Available from http://www.ochaopt.org/poc29march-4april-2016.aspx.

Gaza blockade, including access-restricted areas)

52. The ongoing Israeli blockade of the Gaza Strip amounts to collective punishment and is unlawful. Since its inception in 2007, the policy has deprived Palestinians of their economic, social and cultural rights (see A/HRC/31/40, para. 36), including the rights to education, health, work, housing and freedom of movement (see A/70/392, para. 21).

53. The infrastructure in the Gaza Strip has been devastated as a result of the blockade and three major military offensives in six years. Compounded with a chronic power deficit, the status of the infrastructure exacerbates the already vulnerable living conditions in Gaza.[2]

54. In 2015, the relative improvement in the entry of certain materials through the Gaza Reconstruction Mechanism was a positive development. However, those remained insufficient to respond to the overwhelming needs of the people of Gaza (see A/HRC/31/40, para. 36), who continue to suffer and have become even more reliant on aid.[25] In addition, Israel continues to impose restrictions on the entry of materials that it identifies as having a dual use, through the non-transparent manner in which items are added and the broad nature of their description.[40]

55. Those restrictions, coupled with the lack of donor funding, constitute key factors[41] that hamper the reconstruction of the 18,000 homes destroyed during the 2014 summer offensive and the rehabilitation of infrastructure. The ban on the import of 23 items needed for water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) projects also obstructs the delivery of services to the population.[2]

56. Prior to the 2014 Israeli summer offensive, the blockade had caused a shortage of over 75,000 housing units, which resulted in overcrowding, an increase in rental prices, inadequate accommodation and associated health and protection concerns.[2]

57. UNRWA reported that the lengthy period of time and complicated procedures required to import some of the dual use items had led to considerable delays and additional costs for construction projects.[25]

58. The closure of the Rafah crossing by Egypt since October 2014 has exacerbated the humanitarian situation (see A/HRC/31/40, para. 36).

59. The Israeli ban on exports from Gaza was relatively eased in 2015. However, the volume of exports amounts to only 10 per cent of their volume in the months preceding the blockade.[2]

60. As part of the blockade, Israel restricts access to land and maritime areas. The 300 to 1,000 metre-wide buffer zone along the border of the Gaza Strip has effectively prohibited farmers from using their agricultural land.[42] Israel has also limited the fishing zone for Palestinians to three to six nautical miles, compared

[40] Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, "Report to the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee" (30 September 2015).

[41] Information received from Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process.

[42] United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, "The besieged Palestinian agricultural sector (UNCTAD/GDS/APP/2015/1). Available from http://unctad.org/en/PublicationsLibrary/gdsapp2015d1_en.pdf.

with 20 nautical miles allowed under the Oslo Accords.[43] On 3 April 2015, Israel expanded the Palestinian fishing zone off the southern portion of the Gaza coast from six to nine nautical miles.[44]

Mobility restrictions in the West Bank

61. A complex and multilayered system of administrative, bureaucratic and physical constraints impedes the movement of Palestinians within the West Bank, and is mainly linked to the settlements. The constraints are particularly severe for Palestinians who live in close proximity to Israeli settlements (A/HRC/31/44, paras. 12 and 22-23).

62. Since October 2015, Israel has further tightened mobility restrictions on Palestinians. The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs reported that by the end of December 2015, 91 new physical obstacles, including checkpoints, roadblocks and earth mounds, had been deployed, adding to the hundreds of such existing obstacles that were already deployed across the West Bank.[24]

63. The wall in the West Bank is the primary obstacle to the movement of Palestinians.[45] Israel continues its construction, even after the International Court of Justice ruled that all parts of the wall that were built inside the West Bank, rather than along the 1949 armistice line (the Green Line), were illegal (see A/ES-10/273 and Corr. 1). Of the current 712-kilometre planned route, 85 per cent lies within the West Bank. Consequently, the wall would de facto annex 9.4 per cent of the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, along with entire communities comprising approximately 11,000 Palestinians (see A/70/82-E/2015/13, paras. 52-54).

64. Access of Palestinian farmers to their land and water resources that lie in the "seam zone"[46] is restricted to specific gates and is subject to obtaining special permits.[47] East Jerusalem is largely cut off from the other parts of the West Bank. Permits to enter East Jerusalem, which are required for Palestinians residing in other parts of the West Bank, are very difficult to obtain.[48]

65. According to UNRWA reports, Israeli restrictions impede access to Palestine refugee communities in the West Bank. Between March and December 2015, a total of 118 UNRWA access-related incidents were reported, resulting in a loss of an estimated 63 individual workdays or 472 work-hours, which negatively affected the delivery of education and health services as well as relief operations.[25]

Exploitation, endangerment and depletion of Palestinian natural resources

66. In Gaza, the repercussions of the 2014 Israeli military offensive are still evident and are compounded by the blockade. More than 120,000 people are still

[43] Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, "The Gaza Strip: the humanitarian impact of the blockade", July 2015.

[44] Press release by the Secretary-General (SG/SM/17682-SC/12328).

[45] Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, "Report to the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee" (30 September 2015).

[46] The area that lies between the wall and the Green Line, declared by Israeli authorities as a closed area.

[47] Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, "Report to the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee" (30 September 2015).

[48] Information received from ILO.

disconnected from public water networks, and 23 per cent of Gaza is not connected to the sewage network.[30]

67. Damage to the electricity gridlines and fuel and electricity shortages have resulted in a chronic electricity and fuel deficit affecting Gaza over the past nine years. The deficit has disrupted the delivery of basic water, sanitation and hygiene services, including more than 280 water and wastewater facilities in Gaza.[15]

68. As a result, there has been widespread sewage infiltration into the coastal aquifer. Owing to the deteriorated state of the infrastructure, up to 95 million litres of untreated or partially treated sewage are released into the Mediterranean every day or discharged into the environment.[2]

69. As of January 2016, Israel continued to designate over 70 per cent of the materials needed for water, sanitation and hygiene projects as dual use items, placing at least 30 water and wastewater projects in Gaza at risk of being suspended or cancelled.[49]

70. The daily average water consumption in Gaza is 79 litres per capita per day, well below the rate of 100 litres per capita per day recommended by the World Health Organization. However, Gaza's coastal aquifer is contaminated, and 96 per cent of the water in the Gaza Strip is unsuitable for human consumption. Households must thus purchase drinking water from private companies at 10 times the price of public water.[50]

71. In the West Bank, Israel allocates water discriminatorily and prevents Palestinians from developing water infrastructure. The resulting average domestic consumption rate among Palestinians is approximately 40 litres per capita per day and drops to 20 litres per capita per day in several communities in Area C,[51] compared with 183 litres per capita per day for Israeli settlers.[30] Of the Palestinian communities in Area C, 70 per cent are not connected to a water network.[2]

72. Palestinians have to spend an average of 8 per cent of their monthly expenditure on purchasing water, compared to the world average of 3.5 per cent, and 0.9 per cent for Israelis living in illegal settlements. Families who have to rely on expensive tankered water spend as much as half of their monthly expenditure.[15] This has a particularly crippling impact on Palestinian farmers.[52]

73. In the West Bank, Israeli authorities continue to confiscate and demolish Palestinian water infrastructure. During 2015, 24 water supply units, 12 wells, two artesian wells, three pools, one water grid and six water tanks and trucks were demolished.[30]

74. In East Jerusalem, only 64 per cent of Palestinian households are officially connected to the water infrastructure.[7]

75. Israeli restrictions prevent Palestinians from cultivating almost half a million dunums of land suitable for agriculture in Area C.[2]

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[49] Emergency, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Group (EWASH), "Thirsting for justice: 2015 in review" (January 2016).

[50] Ibid.

[51] Ibid.

[52] Human Rights Watch, "Occupation Inc.: how settlement businesses contribute to Israel's violations of Palestinian rights" (January 2016). Available from https://www.hrw.org/report/2016/01/19/occupation-inc/how-settlement-businesses-contribute-israels-violations-palestinian.

76. The Jordan Valley is among the most fertile areas in the West Bank and comprises 30 per cent thereof. Israel continues to expand its settlements there and to allocate agricultural lands to the 9,500 Israeli settlers while preventing 60,000 to 80,000 Palestinians from cultivating or herding on around 87 per cent of the land.[52]

77. In 2015, the Israeli army destroyed 8,242 dunums of agricultural land by torching, spraying chemicals or dumping waste.[30] In the Gaza Strip, the Israeli army also damaged 420 acres of agricultural land by aerial herbicide in December 2015.[53]

78. Around 1,000 Israeli factories operate in 16 to 20 Israeli industrial zones in the West Bank, which reportedly have become a pollution haven.[54] For example, the Ariel settlement and its associated industries dump chemical waste through its sewer system, contaminating nearby Palestinian agricultural land.[55] The Applied Research Institute – Jerusalem reports that sewage from Israeli settlements was pumped into 131 dunums of Palestinian land in 2015.[30]

79. The 2014 Israeli offensive on Gaza has had a number of delayed environmental repercussions. Some areas may have sustained extensive soil damage, including the removal and destruction of topsoil, rendering much of the land infertile or significantly reducing the quantity and quality of yields. Air quality has also deteriorated in some areas, including particulate matter and lead air pollution significantly above acceptable WHO levels.[30]

80. According to UNEP, the 2014 offensive may also have resulted in loss of wildlife and native plants.[30]

81. As of 2015, Israeli stone quarries and crushers were expanding beyond the 3,522 dunums of Palestinian private lands they occupied in the West Bank.[30]

82. Israel continues to prevent Palestinians from developing their natural gas resources off the coast of Gaza.[30]

Socioeconomic conditions in the Occupied Palestinian Territory

83. The humanitarian situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory is unique and directly tied to the impact of almost 50 years of occupation; one in two Palestinians (2.3 million people) will need some form of humanitarian assistance in 2016.[2]

Economic conditions

84. The Palestinian economy exists under prolonged occupation. Owing to long-standing Israeli restrictions on movement, access and trade, private sector activity has been severely constrained in the West Bank. Conditions are worse in Gaza, assailed by recurrent conflict and with an economy devastated by nine years of blockade that have significantly eroded the productive base and competitiveness of the private sector. The aid-driven growth of the Palestinian economy between 2007 and 2011 started to slow down in 2012, primarily as a result of a sharp drop in donor budget support. Although aid levels rose again in 2013, growth rates continued to decline, providing further evidence that the present growth model has

[53] Information received from UNEP; see also http://972mag.com/idf-admits-spraying-herbicides-inside-the-gaza-strip/115290/.

[54] Human Rights Watch, "Occupation Inc.: how settlement businesses contribute to Israel's violations of Palestinian rights" (January 2016).

[55] Ibid.; and information received from UNEP.

exhausted its potential.[56] The Palestinian economy cannot be put on a development path that is sustainable under the current paradigm and under conditions of recurrent major military operations, deliberate destruction of infrastructure and services, confiscation of land, expansion of illegal settlements and prolonged restrictions on movement and trade, including the Gaza blockade.

85. The Palestinian economy contracted by 0.2 per cent in 2014 and by 2.1 per cent year-on-year in the first quarter of 2015 before showing signs of recovery. Overall real gross domestic product (GDP) grew by 0.9 per cent year-on-year in the second quarter of 2015 and 9.6 per cent in the third quarter, owing to a rebound from a low base in Gaza in the third quarter of 2015 and a steady growth rate in West Bank.[57]

86. The unemployment rate stood at 25.8 per cent in the third quarter of 2015 (38 per cent in Gaza and 18.7 per cent in the West Bank). Significantly, the rates were high among vulnerable groups: 41.7 per cent among youth aged 20 to 24 years; 29.8 per cent among Palestinians with 13 or more years of schooling; 39.9 per cent and 19.3 per cent, respectively, among refugees in Gaza and the West Bank; and 60.5 per cent and 30.5 per cent, respectively, among women in Gaza and the West Bank.[58]

87. Severe import/export restrictions have been a major disincentive to private sector investment, forcing the economy to restructure inwards towards non-tradable goods and the service sector. Public administration and services account for the largest share of Gaza's GDP (32.6 per cent and 24.1 per cent, respectively).[59] The easing of export restrictions in 2015 had little tangible impact on the local economy.[60]

88. Slow economic recovery is underway in Gaza. Real GDP increased from a low base by 33.3 per cent in the third quarter of 2015 when compared to the same quarter of 2014, after six quarters of yearly decline. The upturn was led mainly by a limited rebound in the construction sector, along with strong performance in the wholesale and retail trade sector in the aftermath of the 2014 Israeli offensive.

89. On the expenditure side, the recovery is mostly explained by positive trends in investment and private consumption. In spite of that, the consequences of the 2014 offensive linger: the level of real GDP per capita in Gaza in the first three quarters of 2015 (equal to less than half of the GDP per capita in the West Bank) was below its level for the same period in 2010, implying an important loss in the development indicators.[61]

90. After a slowdown in 2014-2015 caused by a four-month suspension in clearance revenue transfers by Israel, West Bank growth returned to an upward trend

[56] World Bank, "Economic monitoring report to the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee", 30 September 2015 (99646 V2).

[57] All figures are based on official quarterly national accounts published by the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (accessed 9 March 2016). Note that figures for 2015 are preliminary.

[58] Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, "Labour force survey (October-December 2014) Round (Q4/2015).

[59] Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, "Estimates of National Accounts" (Q3 2015).

[60] Information received from UNRWA; and Palestine Trade Center (PalTrade). See also Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, Occupied Palestinian Territory, Gaza Crossings database. Available from http://www.ochaopt.org/.

[61] Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, "Estimates of National Accounts" (Q3 2015).

and registered growth of 3.2 per cent and 4.0 per cent in the second and third quarters of 2015 compared to the same quarters of the previous year. This was mostly attributed to private consumption and investment, in spite of a deceleration in consumption by the public sector. In terms of economic sectors, the recovery is mostly attributed to trade and private services, while public services, manufacturing and the primary sector reported declines during the first quarter of 2015 with respect to the same period of 2014.

91. Palestinians working in illegal settlements in the West Bank suffer from abuse, exploitation and work environments that pose risks to their health and safety. They do not receive the Israeli minimum wage, and child labour continues to be a serious problem, particularly in the Jordan Valley.[62]

Food security

92. A total of 1.6 million Palestinians (28 per cent of households) suffer from severe food insecurity, while another 37 per cent of the population suffers from marginal or moderate food insecurity.[22] Approximately half of the Palestinian population suffers from more than one micronutrient deficiency. Alarmingly, 72 per cent of female adolescents in Gaza suffer from a vitamin D deficiency, and 64 per cent suffer from a deficiency of vitamin A.[2]

93. In 2014, an estimated 47 per cent of households in Gaza were food insecure. A food security crisis has been averted only as a result of the large-scale provision of humanitarian assistance.[25] The situation has deteriorated in Gaza in 2015. According to a household survey on living conditions conducted by the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 51.5 per cent of households reported that they ate less food than needed because of unavailability, 40.2 per cent reported that they had fewer meals owing to insufficient food, and 64.5 per cent of households had to purchase food products on credit.[63]

94. In the West Bank, 16 per cent of households are considered moderately or severely food insecure, with low purchasing power and limited resilience.[2] The rate is particularly high in West Bank refugee camps, at 29 per cent.[25]

Public health

95. Almost half a century of Israeli occupation and practices, entailing humiliation and loss of control over daily life activities, has had a detrimental impact on the mental health and well-being of the Palestinian population (see A/70/392, para. 60).

96. In Gaza, the repercussions of the 2014 conflict continue to unfold, with around 225,000 children requiring psychosocial support and child protection services.[2]

97. According to a 2015 household survey,[64] approximately one in three respondents reported a negative mental health status and more than a quarter of

[62] International Labour Office, *The Situation of Workers in the Occupied Arab Territories*, International Labour Conference, 104th Session, 2015 (ILC.104/DG/APP).

[63] Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia calculations based on Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics data.

[64] Press release, Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (October 2015). Available from http://www.pcbs.gov.ps/portals/_pcbs/PressRelease/Press_En_GazaWar2014E.pdf.

respondents reported moderate to high levels of distress.[65] Of the persons surveyed, 56 per cent reported that they felt deprived, with the majority citing the Israeli occupation, including the blockade, as the main cause of their deprivation. A total of 84 per cent considered suffering to be a part of their lives. In addition, 12 per cent of the respondents aged 30 years and over reported having from one to three chronic diseases (hypertension, diabetes mellitus and cardiovascular disease) diagnosed by a doctor.[66]

98. The closures and aforementioned conflict have led to the severe deterioration of the health sector in Gaza in terms of availability and quality of services. The situation has further deteriorated as a result of the closure of the Rafah crossing since July 2013.[2]

99. The infant mortality rate in Gaza has risen for the first time in five decades, as hospitals continue to lack adequate physical infrastructure, drugs and supplies.[67]

100. Overcrowded substandard houses have heightened the public health risks associated with improper disposal of solid waste at dumping sites and standing wastewater near refugee camps, where the average population density is nearly 40,000 persons per square kilometre.[25]

101. In the West Bank, Israeli restrictions on movement and construction impede Palestinian access to health-care services (see A/70/392, para. 56), including medical referral services.[15] The permit regime, checkpoints and the wall impede access to the six East Jerusalem hospitals that provide specialized health services unavailable elsewhere in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. Among the most affected are Palestinians residing in Area C, areas affected by the wall and East Jerusalem peripheries. The access of those communities to basic health services is also restricted by the actions of Israeli security forces and settler violence.[2]

102. In 2015, 10 incidents of interference with health care were documented in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. Incidents include the forced closure of clinics, undercover search and arrest operations and Israeli security forces entering hospitals to obtain files and interrogate medical staff. In addition, the Palestine Red Crescent Society reported that more than 131 paramedics and volunteers were wounded and 76 ambulances were damaged while undertaking their duties in the West Bank; access by medical teams to sick and wounded persons was denied or delayed by Israeli security forces on 70 different occasions.[15]

Education

103. UNRWA reports that 86 per cent of the schools operated in double shifts in 2015. Refugee children attending those schools thus had fewer opportunities to engage in recreational and creative pursuits than students who attended single shift schools.[25]

104. In the West Bank, the education sector suffers from the discriminatory zoning and planning regime, settler violence and measures by the Israeli army, as well as an

[65] Using the 12-item General Health Questionnaire which is an international screening tool for the assessment of general mental health status and well-being.

[66] ESCWA and Birzeit University, "A people in danger: effects on health of the 2014 Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip" (May 2016).

[67] Information received from UNRWA; see http://www.unrwa.org/resources/reports/increasing-neonatal-mortality-among-palestine-refugees-gaza-strip.

insufficient number of schools. In Area C, 50,000 students incur risks on their way to school. More than 1,700 children in 37 localities have to walk 5 kilometres or more to reach their schools. Around 2,500 children are forced to cross Israeli military checkpoints on a daily basis to reach school. A total of 10,000 children attend makeshift schools, in such structures as tents, caravans and tin shacks, that provide no protection against heat or cold.[68]

105. In 2015, attacks on schools and protected personnel in the West Bank and a pervasive environment of violence, harassment and intimidation continued to have an impact upon children's access to education. Schools are subjected to shootings during law enforcement operations and clashes. Students and teachers are subjected to attacks and threats of violence by Israeli security forces and settlers. Closure of schools or arrest and detention of staff and students interfere with education.[15]

106. In Gaza, of the 262 schools and 274 kindergartens damaged or destroyed during the 2014 hostilities, 96 per cent of non-United Nations schools, all United Nations schools and 65 per cent of kindergartens have been repaired or rebuilt through the assistance of humanitarian organizations and donors.[15]

107. Israeli law stipulates that children who are residents of East Jerusalem are entitled to free education. However, Palestinian-run schools are overcrowded and have substandard facilities. Several of them, along with such facilities as playgrounds, are threatened with demolition. Restrictions on construction impede the construction of new schools (see A/70/392, para. 67). Checkpoints and the wall hinder the access of Palestinian students and teachers to educational facilities in East Jerusalem.[2] Those conditions result in high dropout rates that reach 33 per cent in grade 12.[69]

III. The occupied Syrian Golan

108. Since 1967, Israel has continued to occupy the Syrian Golan despite numerous resolutions adopted by various United Nations bodies, including the Security Council, which in its resolution 497 (1981) of 17 December 1981 decided that the decision by Israel to impose its laws, jurisdiction and administration in the occupied Syrian Golan Heights was null and void, and demanded that Israel, the occupying Power, should rescind forthwith its decision.

109. By 2015, 24,200 Syrian citizens lived in five villages, compared with 19,400 Israelis in 32 settlements.[62] In October 2015, it was reported that Israel intended to add an additional 100,000 settlers to the occupied Golan over the next five years (see A/HRC/31/43, para. 64).

110. The Government of Israel has promoted settlements in the Golan by providing financial incentives (see A/HRC/31/43, para. 6). It has been reported that financial incentives of up to $12,000 were offered to Israeli families that settled in Golan settlements for a minimum of five years (see A/70/406, para. 12).

[68] Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, http://www.pcbs.gov.ps/portals/_pcbs/PressRelease/Press_En_IntChildDy2015E.pdf.

[69] See Association for Civil Rights in Israel, http://www.acri.org.il/en/2016/02/01/5-year-grace-period-for-education-in-east-jerusalem-has-ended/.

111. About 20 per cent of the structures in the Syrian villages were built within the villages municipal boundaries without building permits on Israeli-declared "State land". Annual fines are imposed by the Israeli authorities on such construction. Recent considerable increases in the amount of the fines, from approximately $2,594 to as much as approximately $51,882, seriously threaten the livelihoods of many Syrian citizens in the occupied Syrian Golan.[62]

112. While there had been no recent reported cases of major demolition of property in the occupied Syrian Golan, civil society representatives indicated that demolition orders for Syrian properties issued in the past were still in place (see A/70/406, para. 12).

113. There are also reports that additional Israeli efforts to populate the occupied Syrian Golan involve the establishment of 750 new farms and the transfer of 150 families per year. Ninety Israeli families had already been transferred to settle on those farms in 2015. It was also reported that as part of the farms project, Israel had illegally diverted water to irrigate the farms, thereby depleting water resources and depriving Syrians of their use (see A/70/406, para. 12).

114. Syrian citizens of the occupied Syrian Golan suffer from discriminatory policies, particularly related to land and water allocation. According to the Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic, Israel has restricted Syrian residents' access to only 45,000 acres for farming in the occupied Syrian Golan, compared with 350,000 acres for Israeli settlers. Furthermore, the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic reported that Israeli authorities have prohibited Syrian farmers from shepherding and restricted their access to land for farming (see A/HRC/31/41, para. 12).

115. Over the years, expanding settlements and their activity have reduced Syrian farmers' access to water, while purchasing water has become more expensive. Discriminatory policies are also applicable for prices and fees. A Syrian has to pay one dollar per cubic metre of water, while a settler pays 30 cents for the same quantity. In addition, settlers are granted subsidized access to flood water, whereas Syrian farmers have been prevented from building new water reservoirs for nearly 30 years. Syrian farmers are allocated 200 cubic metres per dunum of land, which constitutes only a third of their farming needs. This is compared with 800 cubic metres per dunum allocated to settlers. Syrian farmers can thus produce 2.5 tons of apples per dunum while settlers produce an average of 6 to 8 tonnes.[62]

116. Israeli and foreign-owned companies, such as Genie Energy and Afek, have continued to explore and exploit natural resources, including water, gas and oil resources, after receiving licences from the Israeli authorities.[70]

117. The Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic reports that Syrians in the occupied Syrian Golan continued to be subjected to house arrest, arbitrary arrest, ill-treatment, unlawful detention and denial of family visits in Israeli prisons (see A/HRC/31/41, para. 9).

[70] See Afek — Israel Oil and Gas, http://afekoil.co.il/en/and A/HRC/31/41, para. 9.

IV. Conclusion

118. **The inadmissibility of acquiring land by force is one of the main principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations. This principle was reasserted in numerous Security Council and General Assembly resolutions that address the Israeli occupation of Palestinian and Syrian territories. Israel, nevertheless, continues, undeterred, to implement practices and policies that violate this principle, including the illegal annexation of East Jerusalem and the occupied Syrian Golan, and the de facto annexation of West Bank lands by means of the wall and settlements.**

119. **Another principle enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations is non-discrimination. The present report and other United Nations reports clearly point to the discriminatory nature of many Israeli policies and practices.**

120. **Israeli practices and policies in the territories it occupies involve violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law. Some of those practices may even amount to forcible displacement of the protected population, which would constitute a grave violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention.**

121. **The Israeli occupation of Palestinian and Syrian territories has entered its fiftieth year. Policies by the occupying Power highlighted in this report seem to be geared towards consolidating control over those territories and can be viewed as part of a three-tiered strategy: population displacement, land grab and suppression of any form of resistance thereto. The impact of the policies on the Palestinian people, society and economy is multilayered and has accumulated over decades of occupation to reach unimaginable levels.**

122. **The Israeli occupation and its practices have obstructed Palestinian social and economic development and at times reversed it, undermining the right of the Palestinian people to development and self-determination and the prospects of peace. In a statement to the Security Council on 26 January 2016, the Secretary-General asserted that it is human nature to react to occupation, which often serves as a potent incubator of hate and extremism.**

123. **The impunity Israel has enjoyed so far has only rendered the attainment of peace more difficult. International law in all its elements must be respected and enforced without exception, to ensure a just and lasting peace. It is the duty of the international community to work towards the attainment of such a peace.**